

MARVEL

THE OFFICIAL MARVEL NEWS MAGAZINE!

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MARVEL AGE

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THE PUNISHER

PREVIEW INSIDE!



28 NOV 87

MARVEL AGE

SALICRUP'S SECTION

Way back in issue #35 of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, we told you about a printing process called flexography, that we were experimenting with in an attempt to improve the printing quality of our comics magazines. Basically, flexography uses a water-based ink instead of the oil-based inks traditionally used for printing comics. This produces brighter, more vivid colors than the old process. At first, the results were a little scary—the colors were actually printing too bright! As you can imagine, many people panicked, and immediately thought flexographic printing was the worst thing to ever happen to comics. Well, since our early experiments, things have settled down a bit, and calmer heads are prevailing. After much experimenting, we've managed to work out a lot of the bugs. We discovered that the standard type of newsprint paper produces better results with flexo (as we like to call it) printing, than the whiter Mando paper. We've even managed to add new colors to the flexo printed comics! Imagine that! We're still trying to find ways to improve the quality of the printing of every comic we publish, and we're not claiming to have found perfection. MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is printed flexo, and we're getting a better idea of what we can and can't do all the time. For example, we published

color photographs in issue #35 and full-color artwork in issue #45. Last issue we tried reproducing black and white photos. Some have worked, and others haven't.

Our new production manager, Jim Novak, has been working closely with Supervisors Abe Biela, James McDonald, and John Biela, Jr. over at Chemical Color (That's the name of the company that creates our color separations.), to ensure even better results in the future. And speaking of Chemical Color, let's hear it for the unsung heroes who work under incredible pressure to color separate our titles month after month! Take a bow, Jeano Carloni, Stanislav Kolarich, Robert Whitbread, William Sobalsky, Donald LaSalle, George Pasuth, John Nevin, Henry Mikos, Frank Mazzaro, David Boyle, William Harrison, Helen Sarafin, Linda Ziron, Lisa Treschitta, Helena Winczewska, Lisa Cologgi, Anna Domagala, Mildred Wadyka, Mary Ziron, Gwendolyn Lord,

Mary Ann Kelley, Ewa Karwowska, Iwona Makunowicz, Steven Haydusky, Kathy Horton, Shirlee Bachrach, Sophie Salinger, Heidi Goodhue, Sandra Dubak, Carolyn Lewis, Thomas Chalfa, Lawren Madden, Neil Steiman, Angeline Wityak, Zaida Villalongo, Tye Ford Jr., Laura Wonnebeger, Susan Johnson, Valerie Blasi, Carol Kaesmann, Sandra Mastroni, Janice Miner, Diana Beliveau, Barbara Skudlarek, Margaret Godley, Wendy Bridgeforth, Lisa Cunningham, Terry Ewen, Bonnie Giovaski, Denise Kristy, Charles T. Saunders, Sharon Veronesi, Jolanta Raszkievicz, Carrie Cologgi, Etta Harris, Dolores Barri, Shirley Harvey, and Dora Durham for a job well done! You know, these guys are always getting blamed when there's a coloring mistake, but how many times do you hear about the mistakes they prevented? Well, it's true! Just last issue the Chemical Crusaders spotted a couple of things that would've caused a lot of embarrassment on our part. In fact, it seems as if MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE has received a lot of extra special attention from Chemical, and we'd like to commend them right here and now! On behalf of everyone at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, thanks for a job well done! We really do appreciate your efforts!

—Jim Salicrup

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A full-page illustration of the Silver Surfer, a silver-skinned humanoid figure with a blue cape, floating in space. He is pointing his right hand towards a bright yellow star in the upper left. The background is a dark, star-filled space with a large, glowing yellow and orange celestial body behind him. A speech bubble in the upper right corner contains the text 'COMING ATTRACTIONS'.

MARVEL®

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel**, **Epic**, **Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing a **July** cover date.

Captain America faces the most shocking challenge of his life! The **COMET MAN Limited Series** ends with a bang! **Marvel Press** brings out a new set of posters! And that's just a hint of the excitement you can expect next month! Don't risk missing out on the fun! Tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles right now!

Titles Shipping March 3 On Sale March 24

☐ **DAREDEVIL #244**—What happens when Daredevil, the Man without Fear, becomes Daredevil, the Man filled with Fear? For those demanding nonstop suspense in the classic Daredevil tradition, this is the story you must not miss! Written by Ann Nocenti, penciled by Louis Williams, and inked by Al Williamson. 75c.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #8**—The inventor of the Morituri process must choose between obeying his government's orders or his own conscience. On his decision rides the fate of the Strikeforce! "Freshmen" is written by Peter B. Gillis, penciled by Brent Anderson, and inked by Scott Williams. 75c.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS #53**—Just when you thought there were no more surprises left, the New Mutants accept an invitation to a formal dance at the Hellfire Club! It's an adventure that will have you on the edge of your seat, every page of the way! Written by Chris Claremont, penciled by Rick Leonardi, and inked by Terry Austin. 75c.



Psi Hawk comes in for a shock in PSI FORCE.

new universe

☐ **NIGHTMASK #9**—Nightmask enters his own dreams to discover the identity of the mysterious woman that's been haunting his sleep. "Girl of My Dreams" is written by Sandy Plunkett, penciled by Mark Bagley, and inked by Pablo Marcos. 75¢.

☐ **PSI FORCE #9**—Have Psi Force member Wayne Tucker's powers made him an uncontrollable killer? The tragic death of a teenager tells Wayne that the answer is—yes! Written by Fabian Nicieza, penciled by Bob Hall, and inked by Armando Gil. 75¢.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #22**—The West Coast Avengers encounter the Fantastic Four in the ancient Egypt of Rama Tut. But when the Fantastic Four fail to recognize them, Hawkeye and his teammates find themselves trying to uncover a mystery wrapped in a fateful enigma in "Lost in Space-Time Part Six." Guest-Starring Doctor Strange. Written by Steve Englehart, penciled by Al Milgrom, and inked by Joe Sinnott. 75¢.

A Limited Series is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A Graphic Novel is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.

A Digest is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.

A Direct Sales title is available only at selected outlets.

A Trade Paperback is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.

Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #28**—When the Statue of Liberty torch is stolen, Spider-Man discovers that he must find and return it fast or his secret identity will be revealed! "Torch Bearing" is written by Bob Layton, penciled by Steve Geiger, and inked by Vince Colletta. 75¢.

☐ **COMET MAN (Limited Series) #6**—Final issue—and boy is it filled with surprises! It's Comet Man against his greatest foe, Superlont! Does he win, or does he go out in a blaze of glory like the legendary Halley's Comet which gave him his powers? Written by Bill Mumy and Miguel Ferer, penciled by Kelly Jones, and inked by Gerry Talaoc. Direct Sales only. \$1.00.

☐ **DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH #4**—Mandrake the Magician faces his greatest mystical challenge—without the aid of Flesh Gordon, Lothar, or the Phantom! Written by Adam Blaustein, penciled by Jim Fry, and inked by Mark McKenna. A Star comic. \$1.00.

☐ **MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #8**—He-Man finds his hands full with more trouble than even he thought possible when Mosquitor, Snake Face, and Sssqueeze attack Eternia. The battle really heats up when He-Man breaks out the Scubatack and Cliff Climber action suits! Written by Mike Carlin, penciled by Ron Wilson, and inked by Danny Bulanadi. A Star comic. \$1.00.

☐ **PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #16**—Spider-Man gets involved in the wildest counter-espionage caper in his career when he's caught in the middle of a wacky plot pitting Baron Zebro, Paste Pot Peep, and the Mad Stinker against Nick Fury and his agents of S.H.E.E.P. "Porker Fried Rice or Chung King of the Road" is written by Steve Mellor, penciled by Joe Albano, and inked by Pierre Fournier. A Star comic. \$1.00.

☐ **THUNDERCATS #13**—With the mightiest heroes of Third Earth held prisoner by an overwhelming enemy force, what can Snarf, the weakest Thundercat, do to free his friends and stop the enslavement of their world? "Snarf Takes Up The Challenge" is written by Tom DeFalco, penciled by Jose Delbo, and inked by Al Gordon. A Star comic. \$1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE KING #41**—What dark secret in Taurus's past could make him a traitor to mankind and the assassin of his father, King Conan? The unholy truth is to be found in the "Blood of the Serpent." Written by Don Kraar, penciled by Mike Docherty, and inked by Fraja Bator. 48 pages. \$1.25.

☐ **X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS (Limited Series) #4**—Magneto goes on trial in international court—again! His crimes against humanity make Mankind's case against him airtight—or do they? Miss this final issue of the Limited Series, and you'll miss out on a major mutant milestone! Written by Roger Stern and Tom DeFalco, penciled by Keith Pollard, and inked by Joe Rubinstein. Baxter paper. \$1.50.

Titles Shipping March 10
On Sale March 31

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #48**—Box goes berserk and the consequences could mean the disbanding of Alpha Flight! "Madness is a State of Mind" is written by Bill Mantlo, penciled by Terry Shoemaker, and inked by Steve Leialoha and Hilary Barta. 75¢.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #331**—Is Captain America obsolete? In the final chapter of the Power Broker Saga, the U.S. Army claims he is and to replace him they've created the ultimate super soldier—G.I. Man! "Soldier Soldier" is written by Mark Gruenwald, penciled by Paul Neary, and inked by Vince Colletta. 75¢.

☐ **FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series) #4**—Devil Dinosaur and Moonboy join the Fallen Angels! If you think that's a surprise, wait'll you see what else happens! "The Devil Among the Angels" is written by Jo Duffy, penciled by Kerry Gammlil, and inked by Tom Palmer. 75¢.

new universe

□ **KICKERS, INC. #9**—The new owner of the N.Y. Smashers traps its star quarterback Jack Magniconte in a Machiavellian power play. To escape, Jack must sacrifice either his career or his self-respect! "May the Best Sport Win" is written by Dwight Jon Zimmerman, penciled by Alan Kupperberg, and inked by Tony DeZuniga. 75¢.

□ **MARK HAZZARD: MERC #9**—Mark Hazzard deliberately places himself in the Russian Army's bull's eye when he signs on with another mercenary to deliver guns to the Afghan rebels. "Decoys" is written by Doug Murray and illustrated by Gray Morrow. 75¢.

□ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #290**—With the menace of the Hobgoblin finished, Spider-Man's life is back on track. Not even the Preserver can ruin Spidey's renewed dedication to be Spider-Man. But what of the wall-crawler's alter-ego, Peter Parker? His life now seems more meaningless than ever! Written by David Michelinie, penciled by John Romita Jr., and inked by Bob Layton. 75¢.

□ **STRANGE TALES #4**—Cloak and Dagger! Doctor Strange! Two series together in one monthly title!

Tyrone Johnson tries to free himself from the curse of being Cloak. But will his attempt only drive him further into the dream world demon Nightmare's clutches? "Perchance to Dream" is written by Bill Mantlo and illustrated by Bret Blevins.

Doctor Strange reaches a crossroads in his war against the mystic forces he unleashed while retrieving his Sanctum Sanctorum. If he is to take the offensive against them, he must sacrifice his friends—including his servant, Wong! "A Walk on the Wild Side" is written by Peter B. Gillis, penciled by Chris Warner, and inked by Randy Emberlin. 75¢.

□ **CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS #4**—Extortion, blackmail, and kidnaping plunge Chuck and his Kommandos into a dangerous rescue mission where Chuck can trust no one, not even the kidnaped victim's father! "Kidnaped" is written by Howard Mackie, penciled by Alex Saviuk, and inked by Sam de la Rosa. A Star comic. \$1.00.

□ **EWOKS #14**—The world of the Ewoks is turned topsy-turvy when Teebo is given the honor of "King for the Day." Twenty-four hours were never so perilous! Written by Dave Manak, penciled by Warren Kremer, and inked by Jon D'Agostino. A Star comic. \$1.00.

□ **GROO THE WANDERER #29**—Dogs are man's best friend, right? Not when Ruferto, the world's stupidest dog, tries to make Groo his master! By Sergio Aragones with kibbitzing by Mark Evanier. An Epic comic. \$1.00.

□ **HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE #2**—Heathcliff is catnaped and forced to drag the wild and wooly Klondike Mike on a madcap quest for Yukon gold! "Tundra and Lightning: the Great Ice Adventure" is written by Michael Gallagher, penciled by Warren Kremer, and inked by Jacqueline Roettcher. A Star comic. \$1.00.

□ **MEPHISTO VS. THE AVENGERS (Limited Series) #4**—The East and West Coast Avengers unite against Mephisto in an all-out effort to end Mephisto's quest for souls! Who wins in this climactic cover-to-cover final-issue battle? All we dare say is that the result will show you just how strong Mephisto *really* is! Written by Al Milgrom, penciled by John Buscema, and inked by Bob Wiacek. Baxter paper. \$1.50.

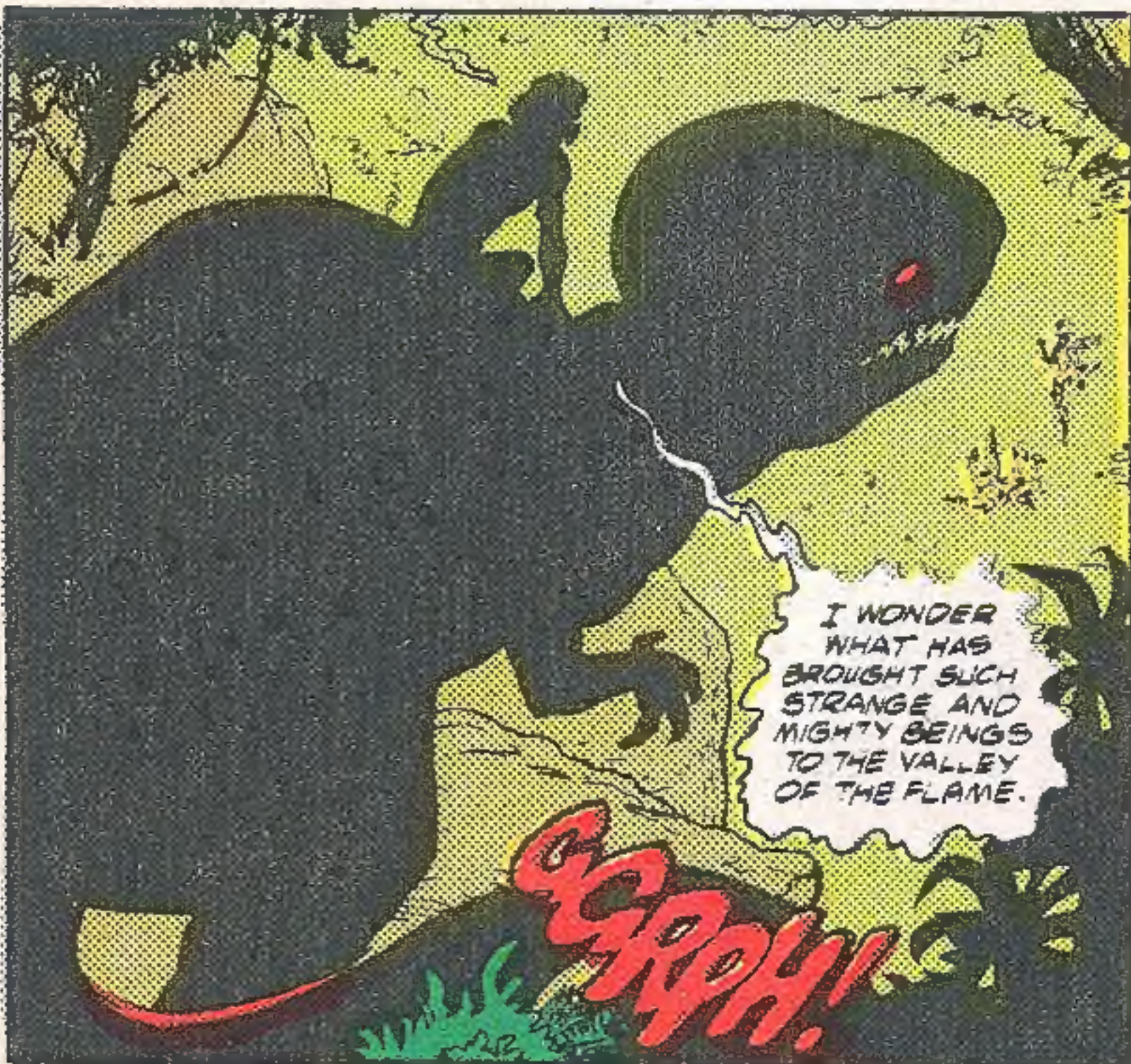
□ **SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #4**—Reprints of the classic webhead tales from **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #s 59, 60, 61, and 62 continue. "The Brand of the Brainwasher," "Bitter Victory," "What A Tangled Web We Weave," and "Make Way For Medusa" are written by Stan Lee, penciled by John Romita Sr. and Don Heck, and inked by Mike Esposito. A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. \$1.50.

□ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #137**—A search for a lost army and the gold treasure it carried takes Conan and a band of scouts into the heart of Pictish territory from which no civilized soldier or barbarian has ever returned! "The Lost Legion" is written by Charles Dixon, penciled by Gary Kwapisz, and inked by Ernie Chan. A Marvel Magazine. For Mature Readers. \$2.00.

□ **MARVEL POSTERS**—If you thought our earlier giant-sized illustrations for your wall were something, wait until you see *these*: **MAGIK** by Mike Kaluta, **CAPTAIN AMERICA** by Mike Zeck and Phil Zimelman, and **SCARLET WITCH** by P. Craig Russell. \$4.95 each.

Titles Shipping March 17
On Sale April 7

□ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #52**—The Silver Surfer —MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE reveals his past, present, and what you can expect in his future! A preview of the new SILVER SURFER series by Steve Englehart, Marshall Roger, and Joe Rubinstein, a concise history of the Silver Surfer, and more! Plus: Stan's Soapbox, Hembeck's Page, the Marvel Trivia Quiz, the Mutant Report, and all your other favorite features! Direct Sales only. 50¢.



A mighty Marvel super hero from the prehistoric past takes a big interest in the Fallen Angels from the future.

new universe

□ **D.P.7 #9**—The sinister sanctuary known only as the Clinic once more has D.P.7 behind its walls—and D.P.7 is glad to be there! Plus: introducing a new group of seven displaced paranormals! "Dreams" is written by Mark Gruenwald, penciled by Paul Ryan, and inked by Romeo Tanghal. 75¢.

□ **JUSTICE #9**—Stripped of the abilities of his mystical sword, Justice is forced to wield the weapons of Earth—with devastating results! Written and penciled by Keith Giffen and inked by Rick Bryant. 75¢.

□ **THE AVENGERS #281**—Why must the Avengers battle the awesome Greek gods? The answer will stun you! Written by Roger Stern, penciled by John Buscema, and inked by Tom Palmer. 75¢.

□ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK #333**—The Hulk goes beserk in a remote village! But his fury is nothing compared to the rage of the town's leading citizen! Written by Peter David, and penciled by Todd McFarlane. 75¢.

□ **MARVEL TALES #201**—A misunderstanding pits Spider-Man against England's greatest super hero, Captain Britain. Featuring the origin of Captain Britain. Reprinted from **MARVEL TEAM-UP #65**. "Introducing Captain Britain" is written by Chris Claremont, penciled by John Byrne, and inked by Dave Hunt. Plus: an all-new five page Spider-Man story written by Steve Mellor, penciled by Joe Albello, and inked by Vince Colletta. 75¢.

□ **THE NAM #8**—It takes a special breed of man to hunt out the Viet Cong in their underground lairs. This is their story. "In the Underground" is written by Doug Murray and illustrated by Mike Golden. 75¢.

□ **THE PUNISHER #1**—The Punisher's one-man war against organized crime goes global when he focuses his sights on the international drug trade! Written by Mike Baron and illustrated by Klaus Janson. 75¢.

□ **SILVER SURFER #1**—Galactus lifts the curse that held the Silver Surfer on Earth! But have the Surfer's shackles truly been shattered? "Free" is written by Steve Englehart, penciled by Marshall Rogers, and inked by Joe Rubinstein. Double-sized! \$1.25.

□ **X-MEN #219**—Havok joins the X-Men! Polaris fights an overwhelming force of Marauders! "Where Duty Lies" is written by Chris Claremont, penciled by Bret Blevins, and inked by Dan Green. 75¢.

□ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #196**—Red Sonja, the she-devil with a sword, re-enters Conan's life! But has she come as Conan's friend—or his assassin? Written by Jim Owsley, penciled by Val Semeiks, and inked by Geof Isherwood. \$1.00

□ **G.I. JOE #61**—A mission to free an American correspondent held in an Eastern European nation snares Stalker, Quick Kick, Outback, and Snow Job in a trap that could destroy G.I. Joe. "Beginnings And Endings" is written by Larry Hama, penciled by Todd McFarlane, and inked by Andy Mushynsky. \$1.00.

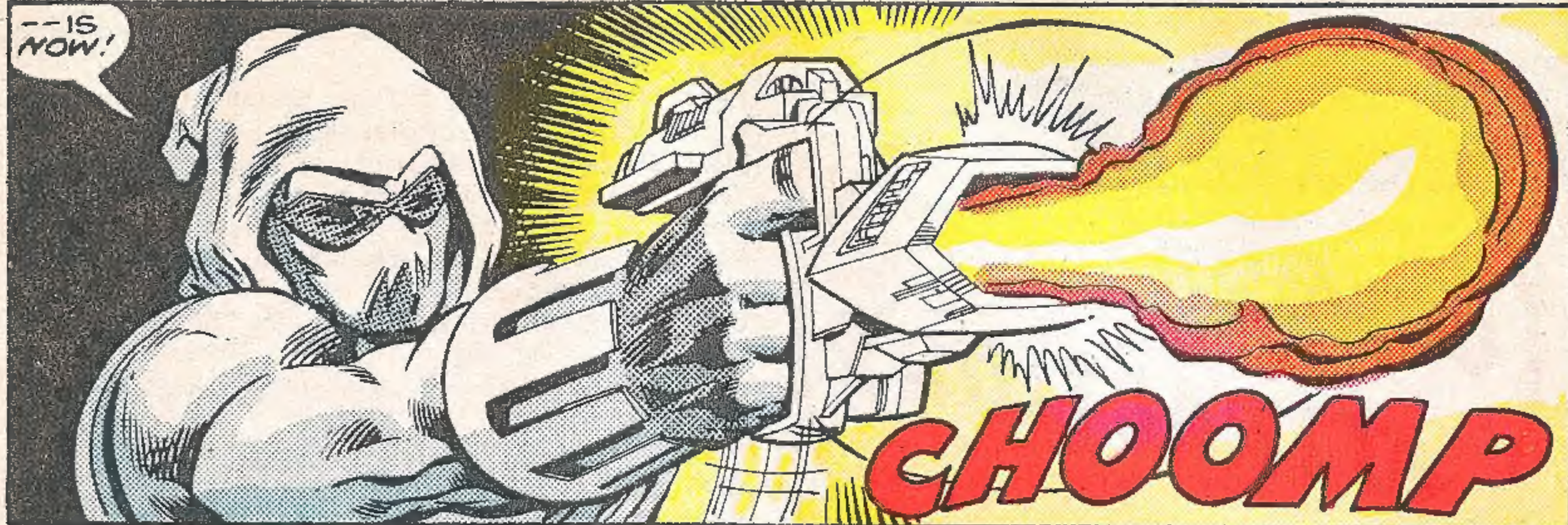
□ **THE MARVEL SAGA #20**—The Trial of the Gods concludes and Thor begins his quest for the Norn Stones! The new Avengers team led by Captain America searches for the Hulk and encounters instead the malevolent Mole Man! The Hulk finally squares off with the Leader for the first time! The Sub-Mariner explores the ocean bed for the lost Trident of Neptune! Doctor Strange embarks on an inter-dimensional trip to find Eternity! The Fantastic Four and Daredevil desperately try to find a way to defeat Doctor Doom, who has seized the Baxter Building! And you will find yourself searching for superlatives to describe the all-out action contained in this volume of the linear history of the Marvel Universe. Written by Peter Sanderson. \$1.00.

□ **MUPPET BABIES #14**—Piggy's fantasy thrusts the Muppet Babies into the world of music and gets the whole gang up to their necks in trouble! "Treble in the Nursery" is written by Laura Hitchcock and illustrated by Marle Severin. A Star comic. \$1.00.

□ **MARVEL FANFARE #33**—The X-Men—Wolverine, Storm, Colossus, Rogue, Kitty Pryde, and Magneto—are thrown into an interplanetary war against the deadly Chief Examiner and his coldly logical living computer! The action really heats up when Rogue plunges through the Chief Examiner's energy grid and absorbs the power it acquired from the Chief Examiner's other enemies, the Human Torch, Spider-Man, and the Hulk! Written by Chris Claremont, penciled by June Brigman, and inked by Terry Austin. Hudson paper. Direct Sales only. \$1.50

□ **WOLVERINE**—The gripping saga from the Limited Series is reprinted in a top-quality paperback book! The deadliest X-Man journeys to Japan to win the woman he loves and instead falls into a trap pitting him against the sinister ninja organization called the Hand, the Japanese underworld, and a maverick Japanese woman assassin who loves him! Plus: special new text features. Written by Chris Claremont, penciled and new cover by Frank Miller, and inked by Joe Rubinstein. Trade Paperback. 96 pages. \$4.95.





The Ghost takes his best shot at Tony Stark in IRON MAN.

Titles Shipping March 24
On Sale April 14

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #304**—Quicksilver kidnaps the Human Torch's wife! The FF drops everything and bands together to get her back—or do they? Premiering as a new regular scripter **Steve Englehart**! Penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

new universe

☐ **CODENAME: SPITFIRE #10**—Jenny "Spitfire" Swensen disappears—and the mysterious Club wants to know where she went! The new title is the first clue in the new direction for the series! Written by **Cary Bates**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. 75¢.

☐ **STAR BRAND #8**—Ken Connell befriends a terminally ill boy. What can Ken do to help the dying boy, knowing that his Star Brand powers cannot save him? Written by **Cary Bates**, penciled by **Arvell Jones**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. 75¢.

☐ **IRON MAN #220**—As if Tony Stark doesn't have enough trouble fighting the Ghost—here comes Spymaster! Co-plotted and scripted by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and co-plotted and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #128**—Spider-Man is wanted for murder. The only person who can clear him is his friend, **Black Cat**—and she's part of the conspiracy to throw him behind bars! Featuring: **Silver Sable**, **Daredevil**, the **Foreigner**, and the **Wild Pack**. "Spider Hunt" is written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg**, and inked by **Jim Fern** and **Art Nichols**. 75¢.

☐ **THOR #381**—Hela's curse has made Thor's life immortal and his wounds unhealable. In the aftermath of the Thunder God's battle with the **Midgard Serpent**, has Hela finally achieved the vengeance she has long sought—the total destruction of Thor? Written by **Walter Simonson** and illustrated by **Sal Buscema**. 75¢.

☐ **X-FACTOR #18**—Is Jean Grey really Phoenix or not? Cyclops is out to find out once and for all and the battle that results is a shocker! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walter Simonson**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢.

☐ **CARE BEARS #11**—The Care Bears come up against their ultimate enemies—"the Who Cares Bears!" Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star comic. \$1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #11**—A much-needed vacation turns into a deadly free-for-all for the X-Men when they're attacked by **Black Tom**, **Eric the Red**, and **Juggernaut**. "The Fall of the Tower" is re-presented from **X-MEN #103**, written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Dave Cockrum**, and inked by **Sam Grainger**. Plus: a special new story written by **Chris Claremont**, and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. \$1.00.

☐ **ELFQUEST #24**—Has the Wolfriders' searching for the legendary High Ones all been for naught? All evidence indicates that it has! "The Quest Upsurped" is written by **Wendy and Richard Pini** and illustrated by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic comic. \$1.00.

☐ **INHUMANOIDS #4**—The adaptation of the hit television series continues! **Metlar**, the deadliest, smartest, and evilest, **Inhumanoid** of all is set free by **Tendril** and **D'Compose**. **Earth Corps** is helpless to stop it—but will **Metlar** be **Blackthorne Shore's** willing slave? "Metlar Unleashed" is written by **Jim Salicrup** and penciled by **Carmine Infantino**. A Star Comic. \$1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS #30**—The Autobots and the Decepticons fight their greatest foes—the insatiable **Scraplets**! Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. \$1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE #4**—For those who missed the tales the first time, and for Transformers fans everywhere, the classic adventures of the Autobots and Decepticons return! From **THE TRANSFORMERS #s 7 and 8**, "Warrior School" and "Repeat Performance" are written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **William Johnson**, and inked by **Kyle Baker**. Plus: a special biography section featuring your favorite Transformers! A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. \$1.50.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #2**—The adventures of comicdom's most famous mutants are rechronicled in concise story synopses, and include complete story and cover credits and full-color cover reproductions. For mutie-lovers everywhere, this series is a must! Compiled by **George Olshewsky**. Baxter paper. Direct sales only. 48 pages. \$2.95.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #4**—Updated entries! High quality printing and paper! Permanent binding! Everything you wanted to know about **Kingpin**, **Legion**, **Lizard**, **Lockheed**, **Loki**, **Longshot**, **Magik**, **Magma**, **Magneto**, **Magus**, **Marvel Girl**, **Mephisto**, **Mirage**, **Mister Fantastic**, **Mojo**, and a whole lot more Marvel super heroes and villains! Written by **Peter Sanderson** and **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**, **Brian Bolland**, **Art Adams**, **Mike Zeck**, **Walter Simonson**, **Bill Sienkiewicz**, **Mary Wilshire**, **Cynthia Martin**, **Bob Layton**, and many more, inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. Trade paperback. \$6.95.

MORE

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Titles Shipping April

DAREDEVIL #245—by Nocenti, Williams, and Williamson.

STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #9—by Gillis, Anderson, and Williams.

THE NEW MUTANTS #54—by Claremont, Leonardi, and Austin.

NIGHTMASK #10—by Thomas and Giffen.

PSI FORCE #10—by McCormick-Lowy and Texeira.

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #29—by Owsley, Geiger and Colletta.

WEST COAST AVENGERS #23—by Englehart, Milgrom, and Sinnott.

G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #6—by Hama and Trimpe.

HUGGABUNCH #6

THUNDERCATS #14

ALPHA FLIGHT #49—by Mantlo, Shoemaker, and Portacio.

CAPTAIN AMERICA #332—by Gruenwald, Morgan, and McLeod.

FALLEN ANGELS #5—by Duffy, Staton, and Mayerick.

KICKERS, INC. #10—by Blaustein.

MARK HAZZARD: MERC #10—by Murray and Morrow.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #291—by Michelinie, Romita Jr., and Layton.

STRANGE TALES #5—by Mantlo, Blevins, Gillis, Warner, and Emberlin.

GROO THE WANDERER #30—by Aragones with Evanier.

HEATHCLIFF #17—by Gallagher, Kremer, and Roettcher.

POWER PACK #31—by L. Simonson.

STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #5

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #138—by Dixon, Kwapisz, and Chan.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #53

THE AVENGERS #282—by Stern, J. Buscema, and Palmer.

D.P. 7 #10—by Gruenwald, Ryan, and Tanghal.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK #334—by Harris, David, Ditko, and Fredericks.

JUSTICE #10

MARVEL TALES #202—Spidey and Captain Britain by Claremont, Byrne, and Hunt.

THE NAM #9—by Murray and Golden.

SILVER SURFER #2—by Englehart, Rogers, and Rubinstein.

X-MEN #220—by Claremont, Blevins, and Green.

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #197—by Owsley, Semeiks, and Isherwood.

FLINTSTONE KIDS #1

FOOFURS #1

G.I. JOE #62—by Hama, Johnson, and Mushynsky.

THE MARVEL SAGA #21—by Sanderson.

FANTASTIC FOUR #305—by Englehart, J. Buscema, and S. Buscema.

IRON MAN #221—by Michelinie, Bright, and Layton.

PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #129—by David, Kupperberg, and Colletta.

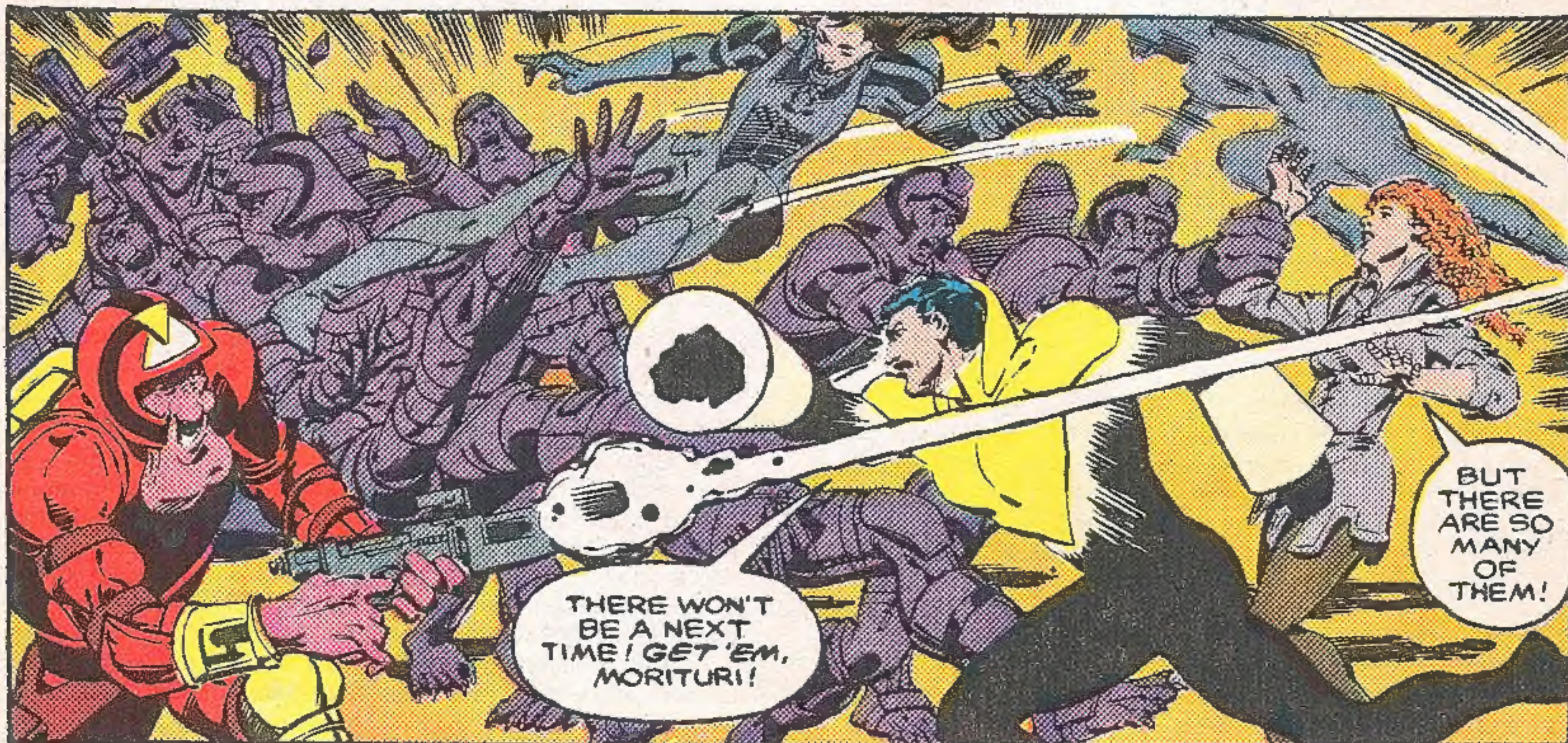
THE PUNISHER #2—by Baron and Janson.

CODENAME: SPITFIRE #11—by Nicieza and Miehan, and DeZuniga.

STAR BRAND #11

X-FACTOR #19—by L. Simonson, W. Simonson, and Wiacek.

The action heats up in STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI!!





Alpha Flight gangs up on one of their members gone mad.

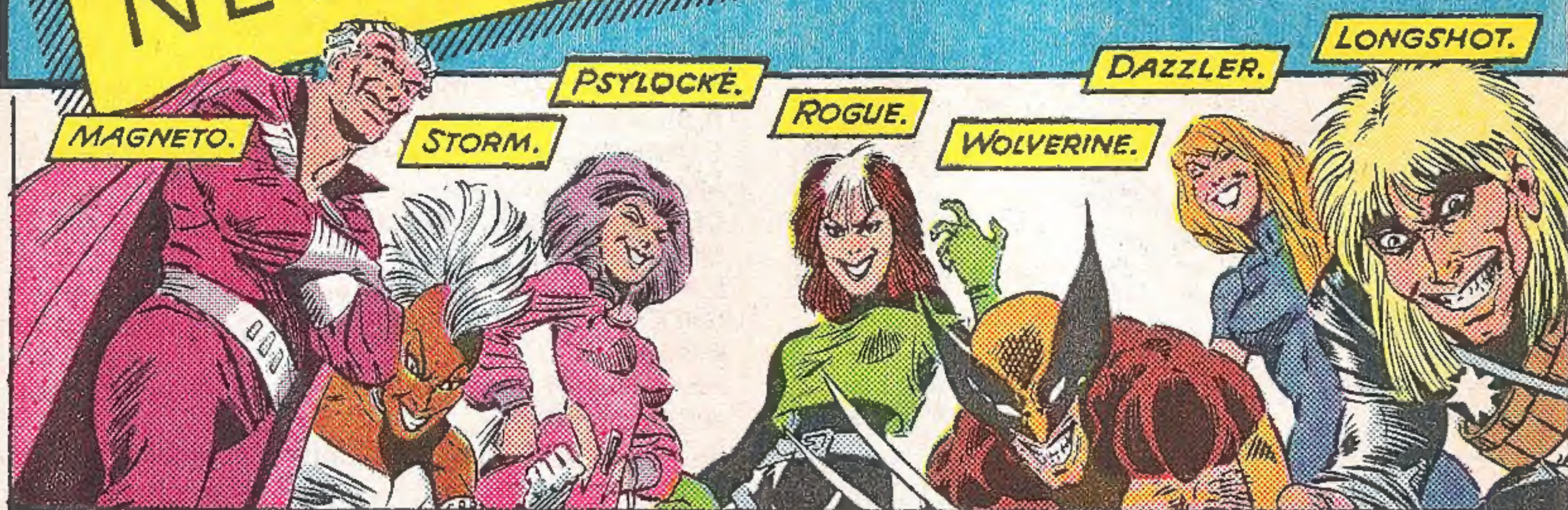
CLASSIC X-MEN #12—by Claremont, Cockrum, and Grainger.
ELFQUEST #25—by W. and R. Pini.
MADBALLS #5
POPPLES #5
THE TRANSFORMERS #31—by Budiansky, Perlin, Akin, and Garvey.
THOR #382
G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #5
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #17—by Sanderson and Gruenwald.
ALIEN LEGION #20—by Zelenetz, Stroman and Emberlin.
CONAN SAGA #1—by Thomas and Windsor-Smith.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #3—compiled by Olshevsky.

Titles Shipping May

DAREDEVIL #246—by Nocenti, Williams, and Williamson.
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #10—by Gillis, Anderson, and Williamson.
THE NEW MUTANTS #55—by L. Simonson, Blevins, and Williamson.
NIGHTMASK #11—by Thomas and Giffen.
PSI FORCE #11—by Fingerioth and Texeira.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #30—by Owsley, Geiger and Colletta.
WEST COAST AVENGERS #24—by Englehart, Milgrom, and Sinnott.
DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH #5—by Higgins.
MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #9
PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #17—by Mellor, Albelo, and Fournier.
THUNDERCATS #15

CONAN THE KING #42—by Kraar, Docherty, and Bator.
VIDEO JACK #1
X-MEN ANNUAL #11—by Claremont and Davis.
CAPTAIN AMERICA #333—by Gruenwald and Morgan.
FALLEN ANGELS #6—by Duffy, Staton, and Palmer.
KICKERS, INC. #11—by Zimmerman
MARK HAZZARD: MERC #11
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #292—by Michelinie, Romita Jr., and Layton.
STRANGE TALES #6—by Gillis, Warner, Emberlin, Mantlo, and Blevins.
CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS #5—by Mackie, Saviuk, and de la Rosa.
EWOKS #15—by Manak, Kremer, and D'Agostino.
GROO THE WANDERER #31—by Aragones with Evanier.
HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE #3—by Gallagher, Kremer, and Roettcher.
ALPHA FLIGHT #50—by Mantlo, Shoemaker, and Portacio.
WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL #2—by Englehart and Milgrom.
SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #5
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #139—by Dixon, Kwapisz, and Chan.
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #54
THE AVENGERS #283—by Stern, J. Buscema, and Palmer.
D.P. 7 #11—by Gruenwald, Ryan, and Tanghal.
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #335—by David and Ridgeway.
JUSTICE #11
MARVEL TALES #203
THE NAM #10—by Murray and Morrow.
SILVER SURFER #3—by Englehart, Rogers and Rubinstein.
X-MEN #221—by Claremont, Silvestri, and Green.
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #198—by Owsley, Semeiks, and Isherwood.
G.I. JOE #63—by Hama, Wagner, and Mushynsky.
THE MARVEL SAGA #22—by Sanderson.
MUPPET BABIES #15—by Hitchcock and Severin.
FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #20
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #21
MARVEL FANFARE #34
THE NAM (Trade Paperback)—by Murray, Golden, and Gil.
FANTASTIC FOUR #306—by Englehart, J. Buscema, and S. Buscema.
IRON MAN #222—by Michelinie, Bright, and Layton.
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #130
CODENAME: SPITFIRE #12
STAR BRAND #11
THOR #383
X-FACTOR #20—by L. Simonson, W. Simonson, and Wiacek.
CARE BEARS #12—by Gallagher, Post, and Edelman.
CLASSIC X-MEN #13—by Claremont, Cockrum, and Grainger.
ELFQUEST #26—by W. and R. Pini.
THE INHUMANIDS #5—by Salicrup, Delbo, and Thibert.
THE TRANSFORMERS #32—by Budiansky, Perlin, Akin, and Garvey.
THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE #5
CONAN SAGA #2—by Thomas and Windsor-Smith.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #3—compiled by Olshevsky.
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE (Trade Paperback) #5—by Sanderson and Gruenwald.

NEWSWATCH



ITEM: Little did we suspect just a few years ago, that **THE TRANSFORMERS**, the series about those amazing shape-changing robots from the planet Cybertron, would become one of the biggest hits of the Eighties. Well, we don't need the sky to fall on us. After the success of last year's **TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE** and **G.I. JOE VS. THE TRANSFORMERS**, we just had to kick off a new **Transformers** series, **TRANSFORMERS: HEAD MASTERS!** It's a four-issue Limited Series written by Mr. Transformer himself, **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Frank Springer**, and inked by **Ian Akin**, and **Brian Garvey**. And it answers the most-asked question, "What would happen if an Autobot and a human physically merged?" The amazing answer is announced in the first issue, on sale in March!

ITEM: Mutant maniacs on the West Coast got the opportunity to meet their favorite **X-MEN**, **X-FACTOR**, **THE NEW MUTANTS**, and **THE X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS** creators when **Chris Claremont**, **Louise Simonson**, **Roger Stern**, **Brent Anderson**, and **Mark Silvestri** visited specialty comics shops in California, Oregon, and Washington on a whirlwind Mutant Mania Tour in January. The fans had a great time getting the inside scoop straight from the source on future storylines, and the creators had a ball just meeting all the mutant madmen.

ITEM: Hey, remember **Stan Lee** announcing last issue in his Soapbox the return of **Rascally Roy Thomas**? Well, it's beginning to look like Old Home Week here in the Bullpen, for none other than **Dashin' Donnie Heck** has returned! Editor **Mike Higgins** said that everyone can look forward to seeing Don's dynamic artistry first on **JUSTICE** and soon a whole passel of New Universe titles—and on the cover of **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVEN-**

GERS. Welcome back, Don!

ITEM: When the first high-quality Marvel Trade Paperback came out, we created such a sensation that we were swamped with demands for more Marvel sagas to be printed in these special editions. Well, even as you read this, the first of a whole new batch of Marvel Trade Paperbacks is on its way! It's **WOLVERINE** which re-presents in one volume the four-issue Limited Series by **Chris Claremont**, **Frank Miller**, and **Joe Rubinstein**. And soon after that, you can expect to see **THE 'NAM**, a collection of the first four **THE 'NAM** comic book stories on the war in Vietnam—one of them recolored to achieve even greater authenticity—written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **Armando Gil**; **G.I. JOE ORDER OF BATTLE** which contains all the facts on all the **G.I. JOE**, **COBRA**, and **David Mazzucchelli**. As if that weren't exciting enough, each volume sports an all-new cover and special text feature.

So keep your eyes peeled, these special editions look so spiffy, they're sure to be a sell-out!

ITEM: Things have really been hopping over at the Epic side of the Bullpen! Epic Managing Editor **Joe Duffy**, who is also the writer of the highly-acclaimed **FALLEN ANGELS** Limited Series, has left the Epic staff to devote more time to freelance writing! Good luck, Jo! Promoted to Managing Editor is erstwhile Epic Editor **Margaret Clark**, and her assistant, **Dan Chichester**, is now a full Editor. Joining them is new Assistant Editor **Steve Buccellato**. Congratulations Margaret, Dan, and Steve! But if you think that promotions are all that Epic Editorial Director **Archie Goodwin** has been plotting, wait until you see the publications he's got planned for release this spring!

ITEM: There's a lot more we'd like to tell you about, but we've just run out of room!

THE TOP TEN

Here we go again with our list of the ten best-selling Marvel comics in the Direct Sales market for November, 1986. As always, it's compiled by our friendly Director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish**.

- 1—**X-MEN** #215
- 2—**FANTASTIC FOUR VS. THE X-MEN** #2
- 3—**X-FACTOR** #14
- 4—**G.I. JOE YEARBOOK** #3
- 5—**G.I. JOE** #57
- 6—**CLASSIC X-MEN** #7
- 7—**G.I. JOE VS. THE TRANSFORMERS** #3
- 8—**FANTASTIC FOUR** #300
- 9—**G.I. JOE ORDER OF BATTLE** #4
- 10—**THE NEW MUTANTS** #49

Wow! **G.I. JOE**, **THE FANTASTIC FOUR**, and **THE NEW MUTANTS** all made a strong showing, but **THE X-MEN** continues to hold the #1 spot. Kinda makes you wonder just how often it's held that position since we started keeping track, doesn't it? If you think that sounds like the call for a Top of the Top Ten contest—you're right! We'll even award a No-Prize to the frantic fan who can tell us how often the **X-MEN** was #1 and what titles had enough gumption to take the position from them!

Wolverine Limited Series in New Format!

Wolverine has proven over and over again to be the most popular X-Man with the X-Men's vast audience. Frank Miller has become one of the most sought-after writer/artists in the industry. Aware of this keen interest, Marvel is presenting, complete in one volume, the original **WOLVERINE** Limited Series. That 1982 saga of Wolverine's bloody clash in Japan with the sinister ninja organization the Hand, written by Chris Claremont, penciled by Frank Miller, and inked by Joe Rubinstein. It will be re-released this April in a trade paperback format.

Claremont and Miller will also provide new additional text for this edition, which features a brand new cover by Miller and Rubinstein. **WOLVERINE** will be 96 pages, priced at a modest \$4.95. The convenience of having the entire story in one volume and at an affordable price should appeal to many collectors.



X-Men Starring in Marvel Fanfare

On the stands this month is **MARVEL FANFARE #33**, featuring a new X-Men adventure written by Chris Claremont, drawn by June Brigman (formerly of **POWER PACK**) and Terry Austin, and edited by Al Milgrom. It's a continuation of the **QUESTPROBE** Limited Series from 1985 (which partially served as a tie-in to a new computer product at that time). Several of the X-Men—Wolverine, Colossus, Storm, Shadowcat and

Rogue—are hoping to enjoy a quiet vacation on an island. Unfortunately, they're attacked by strange artifacts from an ancient civilization, brought to malevolent life by the Chief Examiner, the villain of the **QUESTPROBE** series.

At this same moment, the X-Men's mentor, Magneto, is transported through space to the Chief Examiner's homeworld, where he must do battle with the alien's computer. If he loses, the X-Men are

doomed. In the course of the heroes' combat, Rogue plummets through the energy grid of the Chief Examiner's computer network; as a result, she absorbs the powers of those who have gone before her—Spider-Man, the Hulk and the Human Torch!

Like all issues of **MARVEL FANFARE**, it's printed on slick Hudson paper, and sells for \$1.50 through direct-sales outlets only. Don't miss it!



A New X-Man

In the wake of the Mutant Massacre, the X-Men will be adding a new member to their ranks—Havok! Alex Summers, brother of Scott (Cyclops), originally unleashed his lethal cosmic power many years ago, during the team's initial encounter with the Living Monolith (circa X-MEN #60). Since that time, however, he's been doing his best to lead an ordinary life. The dramatic events that drive Havok into action are detailed in X-MEN #219, written by Chris

Claremont, penciled by guest artist Bret Blevins (of BOZZ CHRONICLES fame) and inked by Dan Green.

The world's mutants have recently been threatened by a group called the Marauders. These beings—mutants themselves—seek to achieve global domination. Their first goal is the destruction of all mutant opposition. They've already slain the subterranean Morlocks, and have inflicted heavy casualties on both the X-Men and X-Factor, injuring Colossus, Nightcrawler, Shadowcat and the Angel.

Alex Summers, meanwhile, has been living peacefully with his lovely girlfriend, Lorna Dane, alias Polaris. That peace is shattered in issue #219. While using her magnetic powers to battle three of the Marauders by herself, Polaris is possessed by Malice and becomes the leader of the Marauders! Havok is, to put it mildly, upset by this, and he joins the X-Men in an attempt to free his love from Malice's evil influence.

Following this, Marc Silvestri, artist for many months on WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, will be joining Claremont and Green in his new role as the series' permanent artist starting with X-MEN #220.

Warlock vs. the Impossible Man!

As a change of pace from the often-troubled lives of our mutant heroes, Marvel will present the comic clash of the year in NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #3. Warlock, the biomechanical alien member of the New Mutants, encounters the Impossible Man, the green, shape-changing troublemaker from the planet Poppup. The popular, wacky Impossible Man was introduced way back in FANTASTIC FOUR

#11 by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby.

In the course of this epic battle, Warlock and the Impossible Man will assume the appearances of various heroes, giving us wonderfully comic versions of the Hulk vs. the Thing, Captain America vs. Captain Britain, and so on. The Chris Claremont/Alan Davis presentation will be on the stands this summer.

X-Men, Avengers Indexes Coming Soon

For those who want to know everything about two of the biggest super-teams around, Marvel will soon publish both THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN and THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS. These titles will appear on a bi-monthly schedule, alternating each month, and they will, like previous indexes, provide a complete listing of the creators and the content of each issue indexed. Each installment of these indexes will contain 48 pages on Baxter paper and sells for \$2.95.

You'll be able to review, in detail, the entire histories of the groups, including the transformation of Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch

from reluctant villains in THE X-MEN to enthusiastic heroes in THE AVENGERS. The indexes list all the appearances, origins and (in some cases) deaths of heroes and villains alike. Such a listing eliminates the need for a collector to search blindly through back issues for these events, consuming both time and money in the process.

Both series have been redesigned so that each entry in the index will have one page of text, written by George Olshevsky, listing characters, creators' credits and a synopsis of the plot, opposite another page featuring a full-color reproduction of that issue's cover. In addition, other selections of the original artwork will be spread

throughout. Mike Higgins is editing each issue.

As an extra treat, the indexes will boast brand new covers and splash pages. X-MEN INDEX #1 will have a cover by Sandy Plunkett and Craig Russell, and a splash by Klaus Janson. Walter Simonson (currently illustrating X-FACTOR) will provide both the cover and splash for the second issue. THE AVENGERS INDEX will reportedly have a first-issue cover by one of the classic Avengers artists of the 1960s, Don Heck, with inks by Joe Sinnott, and a splash page by the present-day team of John Buscema and Tom Palmer.

—Ken Hart



A NEW DIRECTION FOR THE

HULK®

Big changes are in store for the Hulk! Everything you know about our loveable green-skinned goliath, you can forget—including his green skin! Beginning with **THE INCREDIBLE HULK #331**, the new creative team of writer **Peter David** and penciler **Todd McFarlane** will be turning the world of Earth's most misunderstood man-monster and that of his friends and enemies inside-out!

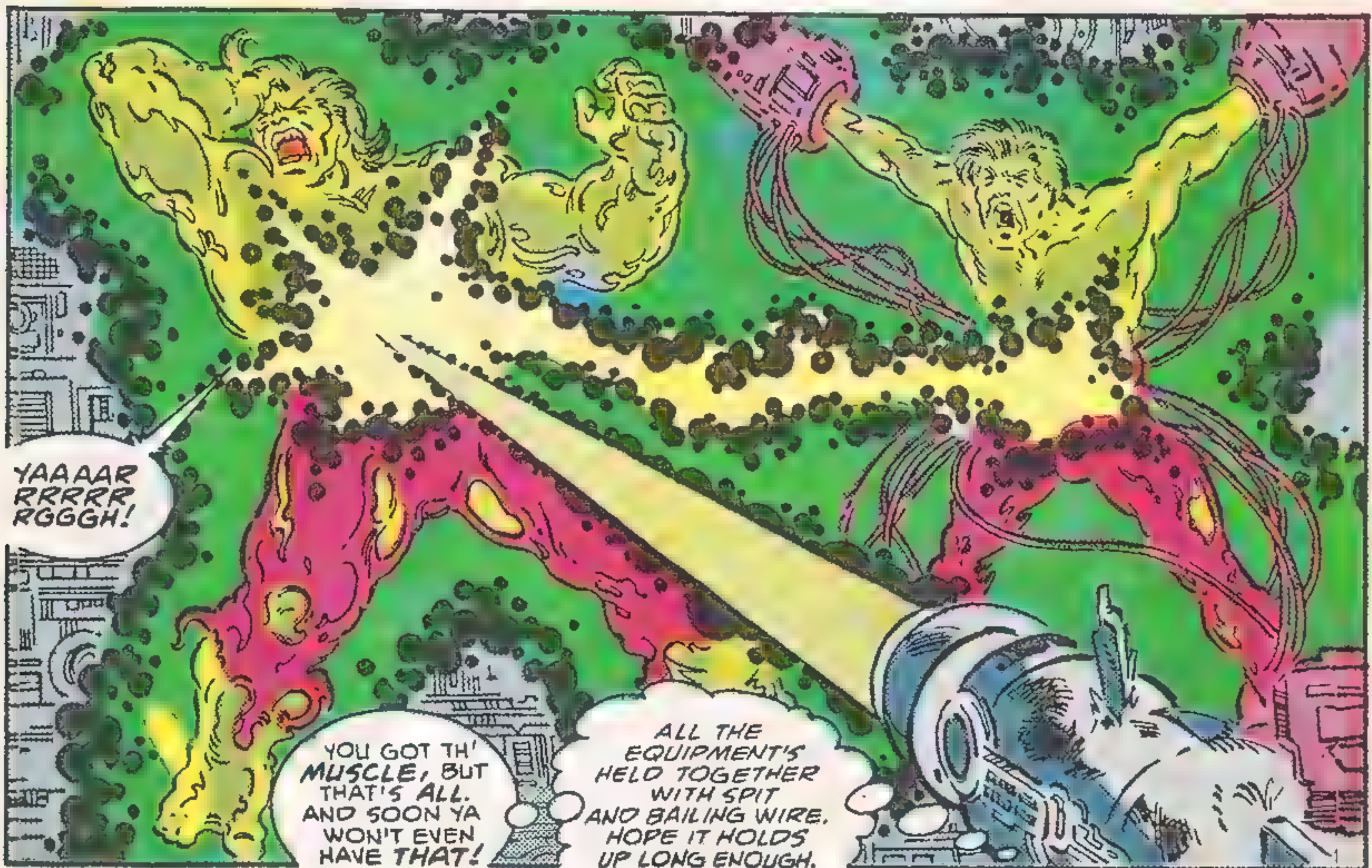
First of all, you can look forward to seeing more of the grey-skinned Hulk. Peter David was delighted with this reversion of the Hulk to his original form and plans on keeping him that way. Also, the Hulk is no longer a simple-minded monster. Under the hands of Peter, the Hulk will be a very cunning and savvy character. The Hulk's one great desire is to rid himself of Banner, just as it is Banner's wish to rid himself of the Hulk. "They are two

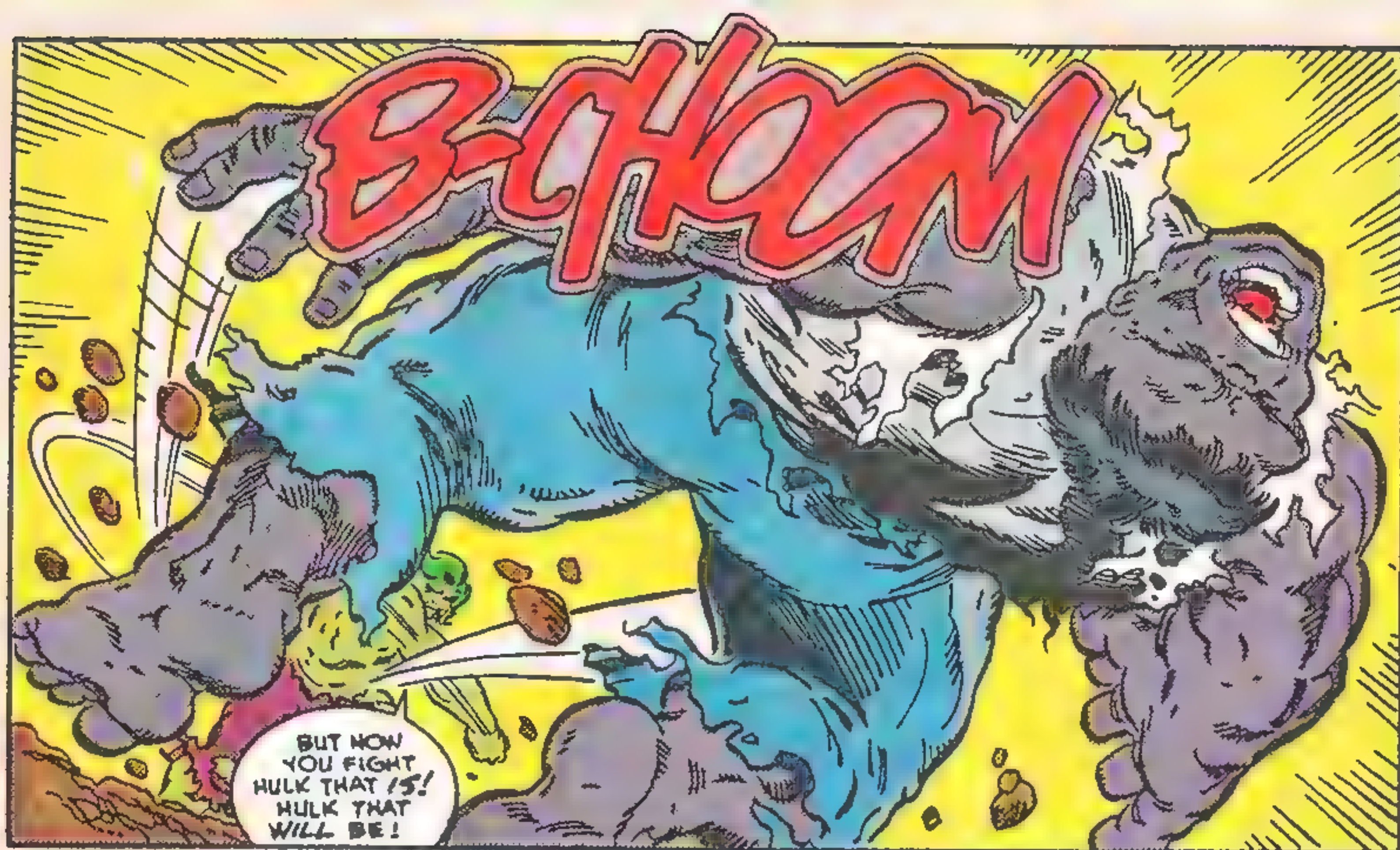
sides of the same coin," Peter told **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**, "eternally at war with each other."

Relevant to this power struggle is Peter's plan to shake up the Hulk's power base. No longer will he have unlimited strength. Sunlight will have a mitigating effect on the Hulk's power. Just like in the first few issues of the Hulk's original title, Banner will only change into the Hulk at night. But since moonlight is just reflected sunlight, the phases of the moon will also have an effect on the Hulk. During the new moon, the Hulk will be stronger and will even be able to make subliminal suggestions to Banner, who during this time of the month will not even be able to trust himself. During the full moon, on the other hand, the Banner persona is stronger and Banner will be able to retard and sometimes even stop the change. Peter has described

his vision of the Hulk as a "Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde" type character as opposed to a misunderstood "Frankenstein's monster."

Peter also plans on exploring that element of the Hulk legend which has received virtually no attention since **HULK #1**—the Gamma Bomb! As we know, Bruce Banner is a peaceful sort of guy, who, for some reason, created an incredibly destructive weapon. Banner has never dealt with this fact. Well, now he will because the Gamma Bomb project did not die when the Hulk was created! The government has been stockpiling them for years! No one knows exactly why. Banner opposes the use of The Gamma Bomb because of its incredible destructive capability. The Hulk, on the other hand, opposes it because, while the Gamma Bomb exists, there is a potential for the creation of more Hulks, and





he doesn't want that! So for once, the Hulk and Bruce Banner will be working together to ban the Bomb!

As to old friends and old enemies, Peter warns us, they will pop up, but enemies might now be friends and friends may be enemies. Take the Leader, for instance. Like the Hulk, the Leader is a gamma-ray mutate. Instead of incredible strength, however, the Leader was endowed with incredible intelligence and a jumbo-sized skull to match! It will be revealed that, over the course of time, the gamma radiation which created the Leader wore off, and he reverted to his normal human self. Desperate to regain his super-human intelligence the Leader cuts a deal with none other than the Incredible Hulk. In exchange for the Hulk's aid, the Leader promises to help to destroy Bruce Banner. And if anyone can do it, he can! But can the Hulk trust him?

Linked to the return of the Leader, is the disappearance of the Rick Jones Hulk. "The Rick Jones Hulk will soon be gone," Peter told MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, "but not Rick Jones. He will remain an integral part of the series."

Peter is fine choice to chronicle the adventures of the Hulk. Peter has received high praise for his PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN scripting, especially for "the Death of Jean DeWolff" four-parter. He also wrote the first four issues of MARK HAZZARD, MERC and was the scripter for AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #289, which wrapped up the Hobgoblin saga. And how could we forget that he is also a former editor of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. We won-

der where he finds the time to hold a full-time job as Marvel Direct Sales Manager?

The other half of the new Hulk team is Todd McFarlane. Todd started his comic book career working on stories for Epic Comics' COYOTE. After a stint at DC, he has returned to the fold, illustrating G.I. JOE, as well as THE HULK. Todd is delighted to be drawing

the INCREDIBLE HULK. "Each issue I'm getting more and more into it" he told us.

Now is the time for you to get into it, too. With the Hulk going off into new, unexplored, and very exciting territory, its the perfect time to jump on the Hulk bandwagon. With all that's going on, you wouldn't want to miss out!

—Sandy Hausler



MARVEL

TRIVIA

QUIZ

Everyone knows that in America, being number one involves a lot of pride. Whether it's in car sales or comic books, football teams or finger bowl manufacturing . . . everyone's goal seems to be to stand proudly forward and declare "We're number one!" Only Avis, the rental car company, has ever managed to make a virtue out of being number two. And yet, there's no-escaping the fact that this is the **SECOND** Mighty Marvel Trivia Quiz laid out before your eyes. The first one was last month, and that's where all the ballyhoo should have been, the throwing of confetti, the double-bagging ceremonies, the noting of the historical

moment. Ah, well. We were too busy letting you know that the questions ranged from recent to distant Marvel history, that the answers were elsewhere in the book, that **Quincy McIver's** alter ego is **Cottonmouth**—it took up time and space, and so we missed the chance to sound the trumpets and make a big deal over the number-one-ed-ness of it all. What can we do now?

The answer, of course, lies below. This month's quiz deals with great **SECOND** issues, **SECOND** events, **SECOND** stories. Can you accurately answer all the questions in mere seconds?

—Brian Nelson

1. Who were the "First Friends" observed in the back-up story of **CLASSIC X-MEN #2**?

2. Who was the second member of **D.P. 7** manifesting powers?

3. **Goliath** is a well-known size-changing villain, but what *second* size-changing ne'er-do-well premiered in a recent second issue?

4. What spanking-new Marvel series set its second episode in "The Garden"?

5. Who was the second member of the **Squadron Supreme** to die?

6. What oddly-powered thief did the **West Coast Avengers** spar with in the 2nd issue of their Limited Series?

7. And whose Limited Series brought him into contact with the **Idiot** and **Kali** in its second issue?

8. What enchanting crystalline woman was introduced in the second

issue of **CRYSTAR**?

9. Who killed **Rachel Van Helsing** the *second* time? (Note: **Mark Evanier** did not write this question.)

10. the second Marvel Graphic Novel was **ELRIC: THE DREAMING CITY**. Can you name (or dare we ask, spell correctly) the dreaming city?

11. **The Punisher** headlined **MARVEL PREVIEW #2**, but what **Howard Chaykin** creation also debuted in those pages?

12. What classic novel was adapted to comics form in the second startling issue of **SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS**?

13. Though not a vampire, what supernatural sensation nonetheless debuted in **VAMPIRE TALES #2**?

14. Yet another scary character, **Gabriel**, **Devil Hunter**, made his first appearance in what magazine?

15. In **MARVEL PREMIERE #2**, **Adam Warlock** battled what particularly ugly nemesis?

16. What ill-starred romantic interest did **Tony Stark** meet in **IRON MAN #2**?

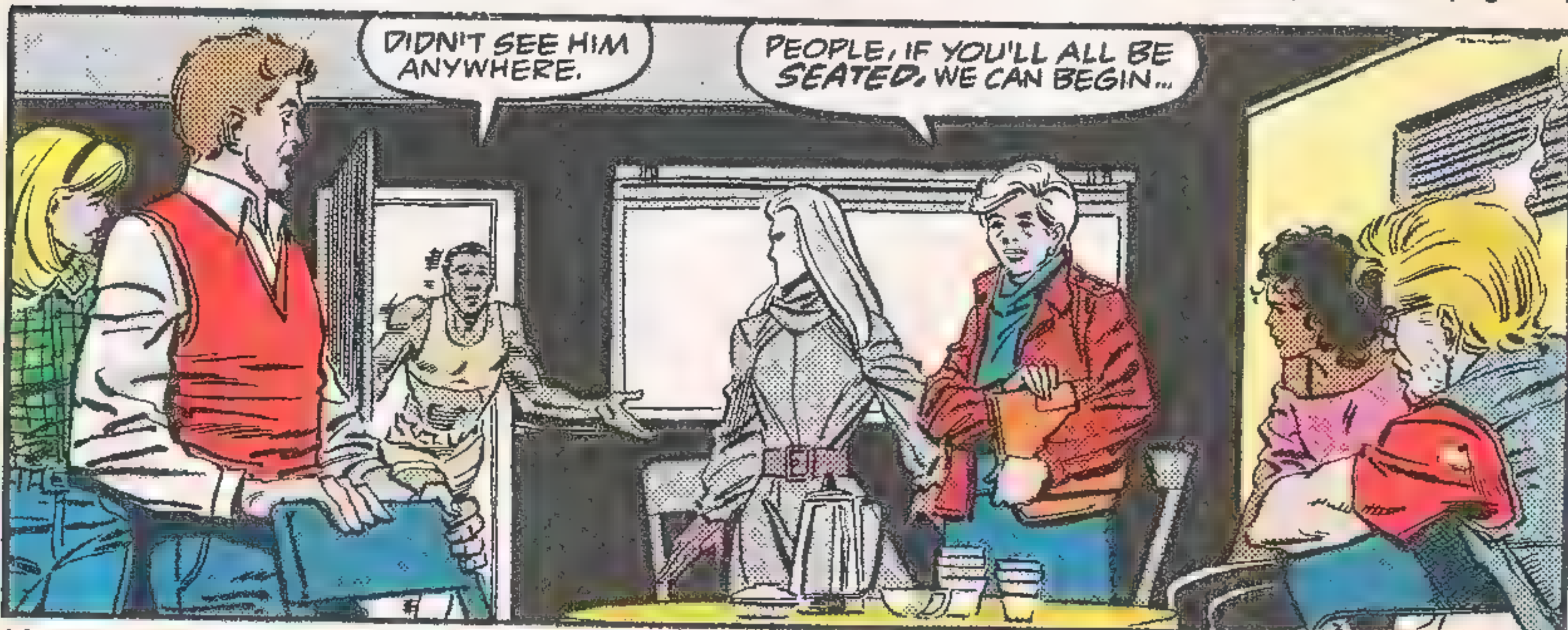
17. That same month, **Prince Nmor**, the **Sub-Mariner**, was hosting what guest-star in his own second issue?

18. Everyone knows **Magneto** was the **X-Men's** first foe, but whom did they take on in their second issue?

19. **Spider-Man's** second issue pitted him against a villain whose hideout was an innocuous repair shop; can you name him?

20. After their landing from the fateful space flight, who was the *second* member of the **Fantastic Four** to manifest powers?

(Answers on page 32.)



STAN'S

SOAPBOX



Hoo boy, have I got a problem!

It has to do with a "time paradox," the old bugaboo that haunts everyone who writes a column like this. (Not that I mean to imply lots of people write columns like this—they wouldn't dare!)

Here's what's driving me up the wall—and without my webbing! Something incredibly exciting just happened in the mighty world of Marvel! I wanna be the first to tell you about it. But I'm penning these pandemonious words on December 3rd, 1986. You won't be able to read this till February '87 or even later! By then, you may have heard all about my wonderful news! You see, my "present time" is really a few months into your "past." In fact, even now while you're reading these woebegone words, I'm writing another Soapbox column which won't be printed till April or May! So, in this case, I guess my "present" is your "future!" And you thought you had troubles!

Well, I'm gonna tear up my calendar, turn my clock face down, and tell you my big announcement now, anyway! Are you ready for it? Here it is—

Marvel's been sold!

That's right. The whole ball of wax! The comic book bullpen in New York, our publishing company in London and our animation studio in Los Angeles—they've all been bought and paid for by New World Pictures, one of the greatest new movie and television companies in California—or the whole galaxy for that matter!

And we couldn't be happier about it! Here's why . . .

The young, hip, fun-loving guys who run New World dig Marvel Comics as much as you do! That's why they bought us! They want to make some real dynamite movies and TV shows based on all your favorite characters, plus any new, original ideas we come up with. And they know how to put excitement on the screen. I don't wanna sound like I'm trying to snow you, so I'll just mention two of their latest smashes—the movie *Soul Man* and the TV series *Sledge Hammer*. 'Nuff said?

I guess you can imagine how excited the whole blushin' bullpen is to finally have a fast-moving, dynamic movie and TV company in our corner. Now we won't have to merely license our characters for other people to produce—now we'll be producing them ourselves, the way they should be done!

Well, we'd better wrap this up for now. It's time for me to find Spielberg and Lucas and try to comfort them. I mean, now that Marvel's gonna be a big-time player in the movie biz, the poor guys must be shiverin' in their boots!

(But in case they read this and call their lawyers because they didn't think it was funny, we all know I'm talking about Melvin Spielberg and Seymour Lucas, right?)

So, till McDonald's and Burger King buy their franchises in Asgard this is Smilin' Stan wishing you health, happiness and hilarity, and reminding you that drugs are for losers, so dare to say "no"—unless you're being offered a Marvel mag, of course! Excelsior!



NEW WORLD PICTURES

...AND NOW, BACK TO THE
FRED HEMBECK SHOW!



THANKS, DON, AND WELCOME
BACK EVERYONE! WE'RE
HERE TALKING WITH THE
PUNISHER...

PUNISHER,
HOWABOUT
TELLING
US A
LITTLE
BIT ABOUT
THIS NEW
SERIES
I HEAR
YOU HAVE
COMING OUT SOON
FROM MARVEL COMICS...

FORGET THE
SERIES.

FORGET...
THE SERIES?...

BUT--
BUT I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND. I
THOUGHT
YOUR APPEAR-
ANCE TODAY
WAS TO
PLUG YOUR NEW COMIC BOOK?...

FORGET THE

I
FORGOT IT, I

...C'MON, "BIG LOUIE," I WANT
TO SEE 100 PUSHUPS...37...38...

HAVE MERCY
...puff.. PUNISHER
... I'M AN ...puff
... OLD MAN ...
OVERWEIGHT...
puff.. I CAN'T
STAND UP...puff
... TO THIS
REGIMEN...
puff...

BUT, LOUIE--
THIS IS FOR
YOUR HEALTH!

BUT--
YOU DO
WANT
TO STAY
HEALTHY,
DON'T YOU?

...39...40...41...42...
43...44...

C'MON,
LOUIE, I
WANT TO
SEE YOU
MAKE
IT TO
100,
EVEN IF
IT, heh
heh,
KILLS
YOU...

CLAP CLAP
APPLAP

VERY... INTER

...AN
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THE SERIES.

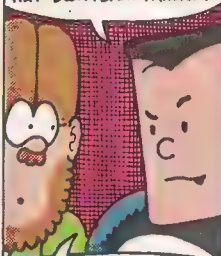


"FORGOT IT!"

WHAT I'D REALLY LIKE TO TALK ABOUT--OKAY, OKAY, WHAT I'D REALLY LIKE TO PUG--IS MY NEW FITNESS VIDEO!



AS I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE, THERE ARE WORKOUT TAPES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, CHILDREN-- EVEN HEART PATIENTS!



-- BUT I THINK I'VE TAPPED INTO A POTENTIALLY FRESH AUDIENCE. Y'SEE, A VERY IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF OUR SOCIETY NO LONGER DEMONSTRATES ANY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, INSTEAD RELYING UPON SUBORDINATES TO PERFORM ALL THEIR... "DIRTY WORK," SUCH AS IT IS, FOR THEM. THIS GROUP-- AS WELL AS EVERYONE ELSE-- IS WELL SERVED ON MY BRAND NEW VIDEO TAPE --

-- "THE PUNISHER'S SHAPE UP OR SHIP OUT WORKOUT FOR MOB CHIEFTANS"! I, er, RECRUITED SEVERAL OUT OF SHAPE CRIME BOSSSES TO HELP ME FILM THE PROGRAM, AND-- WELL, WHY DON'T WE JUST SEE FOR OURSELVES...



RUN THE CLIP, HAL...

APPLAP CLAPCLAP
ESTING...

AND FOR JUST RIGHT ITEM COMPLEMENT VIDEO, TAKE A LOOK AT CENTER STAGE--



-- WHAT BETTER WAY TO STAY FIT THAN IN PUNISHER OUTERWEAR FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY?

UZI NOT INCLUDED.



...PROVING ONCE AGAIN THAT WITH THE RIGHT MERCHANDISING AGENT BEHIND YOU, CRIME CAN INDEED PAY OFF.

PUNISHER, IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE HAVING YOU ON THE SHOW, BUT I'M AFRAID WE'RE OUT OF TIME FOR TODAY.



BE WITH US NEXT TIME WHEN MY GUEST WILL BE BROTHER WOODCOCK, WHO'LL DISCUSS HIS NEW BOOK, "THE HUNGRY HOGAN: 101 CHICKEN RECIPES FOR AFTER THE RITUAL SACRIFICE"! BYE ALL--

AND REMEMBER -- BUY MY TAPE -- -- IF YOU WANT TO STAY HEALTHY!



CLAPCLAPCLAP
LAPCLAPCLAPCLAP

PUNISHER

He's big. He's mean. And if you're a criminal, you'd better watch out, because he might just be the last thing you ever see.

Could we be talking about Arnold Schwarzenegger? Nope. Chuck Norris? Uh-uh. Sylvester Stallone? Guess again. Clint Eastwood? Close, but no cigar.

He's bigger and badder than all of those guys put together! He's the Punisher, and he's the star of his own new series!

The Punisher's war on crime began when a Marine named Frank Castle took his wife and children on a picnic in New York's Central Park. There the family stumbled upon the scene of a mob killing. Fearing witnesses, the mobsters murdered Castle's wife and children. Castle was traumatized by the experience, and he swore to avenge his family's deaths. Before long, he donned a black costume emblazoned with a giant skull. And so, after arming himself with an arsenal of

lethal weapons, Frank Castle became the Punisher.

The Punisher's one-man war has taken him beyond battles with criminals, though. His violent (and often deadly) methods have frequently led the Punisher into battles with the police and heroes such as Spider-Man and Daredevil. He even had to spend time in jail until he was freed in a daring escape.

But while the Punisher may not have been too popular with the law, he's



built up a large following among comics professionals and fans alike. His numerous guest appearances in DAREDEVIL and the various SPIDER-MAN titles created so much interest in the Punisher that he was given a Limited Series of his own. The series (by Steven Grant, Mike Zeck, and John Beatty) masterfully told the tale of a titanic three-way war among the Punisher, the mobs, and a ruthless vigilante group called the Trust. With the popularity of the Limited Series so great, plans were immediately made for the debut of a regular Punisher series.

Published once every six weeks, THE PUNISHER takes up where the Limited Series left off. "The Punisher is a very good character," says PUNISHER editor Carl Potts. "We've only done one story in the Limited Series, but there are lots of others left to do."

What is it about the Punisher that appeals so much to people? Although he can't really speak for anyone else, Carl finds himself fascinated by the Punisher's motivation. "Like most fanatics—Solomon Kane whose Limited Series was also edited by Carl is the 1500's equivalent—the Punisher has one driving ambition. And that separates him from the rest of society. Solomon Kane attached religious dogma to his adventurous spirit to justify his actions. And the Punisher, even though he wants to avenge his family, is also subconsciously rationalizing his own desire for action by righting wrongs."

Since the Punisher is a character that means a lot to Carl, he's been very careful to make sure that the one-man army stays in the right hands. THE PUNISHER is being scripted by talented writer Mike Baron. Mike's numerous credits include work for another series that Carl edited, AMAZING HIGH ADVENTURE.

Considering that over the last few years, the Punisher has been portrayed as everything from dedicated to out-and-out insane, how does Mike see the character? "An obsessed individual. He is obsessed with bringing criminals to justice."

That may be putting it mildly! As Mike laughs, "If it weren't for the Comics Code Authority, we'd probably be hauled before the Meese Commission for graphic violence!"

Joining Mike as the series' penciler, inker, and colorist is Klaus Janson. As you probably already know, Klaus's work on DAREDEVIL (both with Frank Miller and on his own) helped make DAREDEVIL one of the most acclaimed comics series in recent history.

Carl is understandably happy about having Mike and Klaus working on THE PUNISHER. "Mike's got a writing style that combines gutsy intensity



with a good sense of humor," Carl observes. "He's got interesting insights into a variety of concepts, from the common and mundane to broader philosophical ideas. And when Klaus pencils, inks, and colors his own work, he's excellent. THE PUNISHER is the first series since DAREDEVIL where Klaus is totally responsible for a book's visuals."

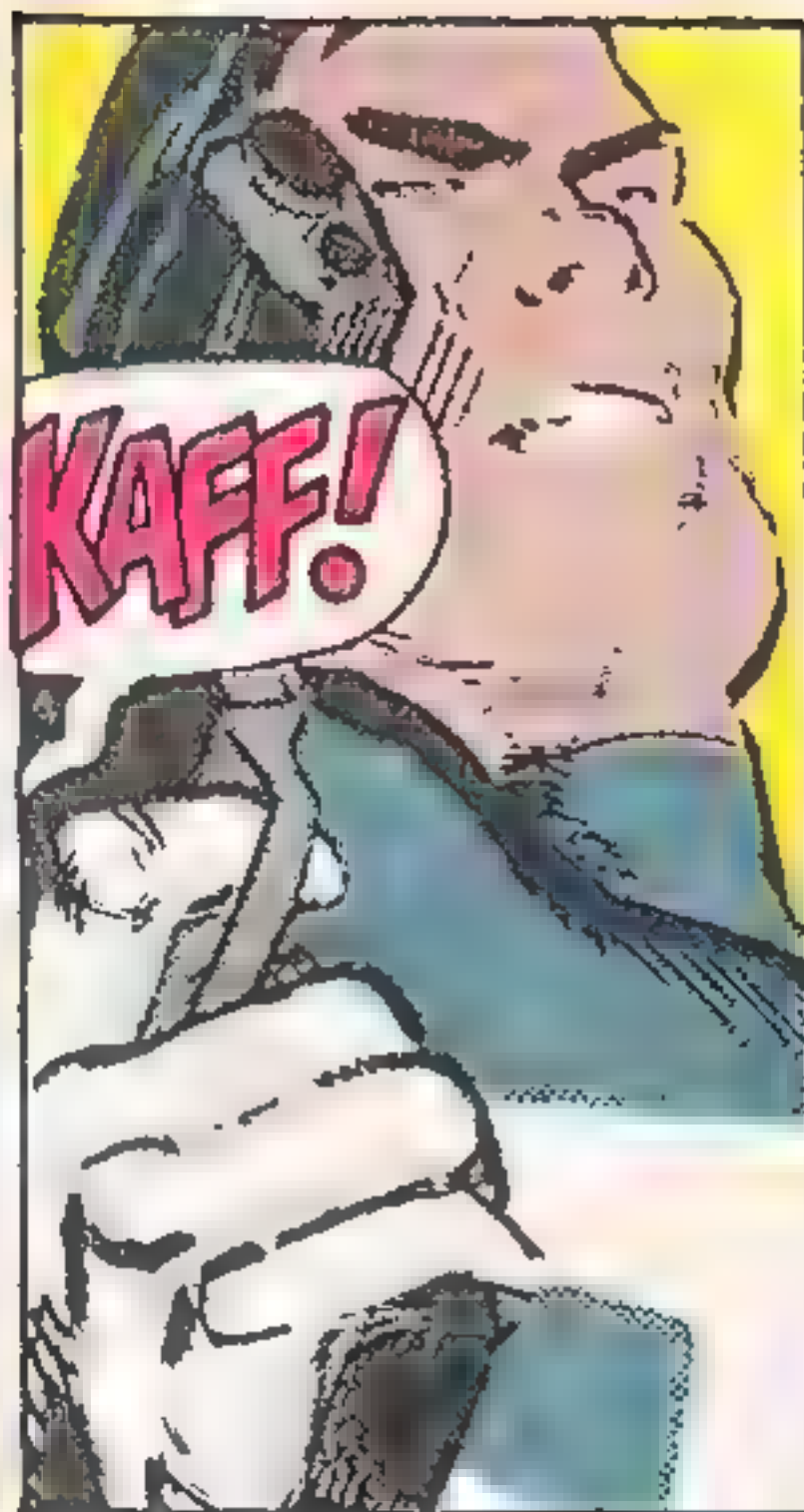
Mike and Klaus are every bit as happy to be aboard as Carl is to have them. "I had heard through a friend that Marvel was thinking of doing a PUNISHER series," Klaus recalls. "I thought it was being done as another Limited Series, so I asked Carl if I could do it and he told me that it was going to be an ongoing series. So I asked him if I could do the ongoing series, and he said 'yes.'"

"The thing that attracted me to THE

PUNISHER is that, for me, it combines the familiar with the unfamiliar. There are city scenes and action, which I'm pretty good at, and there are also unfamiliar things for me to learn, like armaments and hardware. So there's personal expansion for me and also stuff that I'm good at, which I hope will make for a good-looking book."

Authenticity plays a large part in THE PUNISHER. Mike says, "We're using a lot of photo reference to get the hardware right. Even [Marvel editor and weapons authority] Larry Hama can read this series!"

Judging from what Mike and Carl told MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE about the first few issues, Larry's not going to be the only one reading THE PUNISHER. "The first issue's going to be called 'Marching Powder,'" Mike reveals, "and it's going to involve an international cocaine ring. The Punisher



starts with crack pushers in New York and follows the guys. He climbs the rungs of the organization until he reaches the top (or so he thinks).

"By the second issue, he's reached a huge plant in the jungles of Bolivia. It's run by a Vietnamese general who's an international criminal mastermind, and his men are armed up the yin-yang!"

The third issue will find the Punisher back in America and growing tired of his lonely battle against crime. As Carl explains it, "The Punisher is getting weary of his war, as he puts it. He wants to get away and establish a normal life for himself. So he travels to the Midwest and tries to get normal relationships going. But situations pop up where the motivation to be the Punisher surfaces at every turn. He

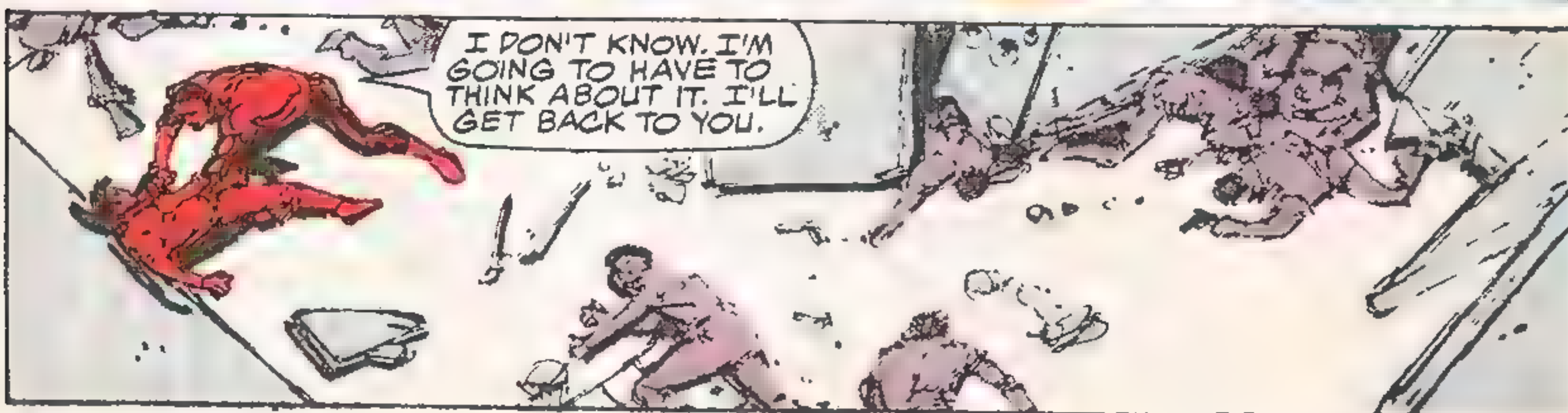
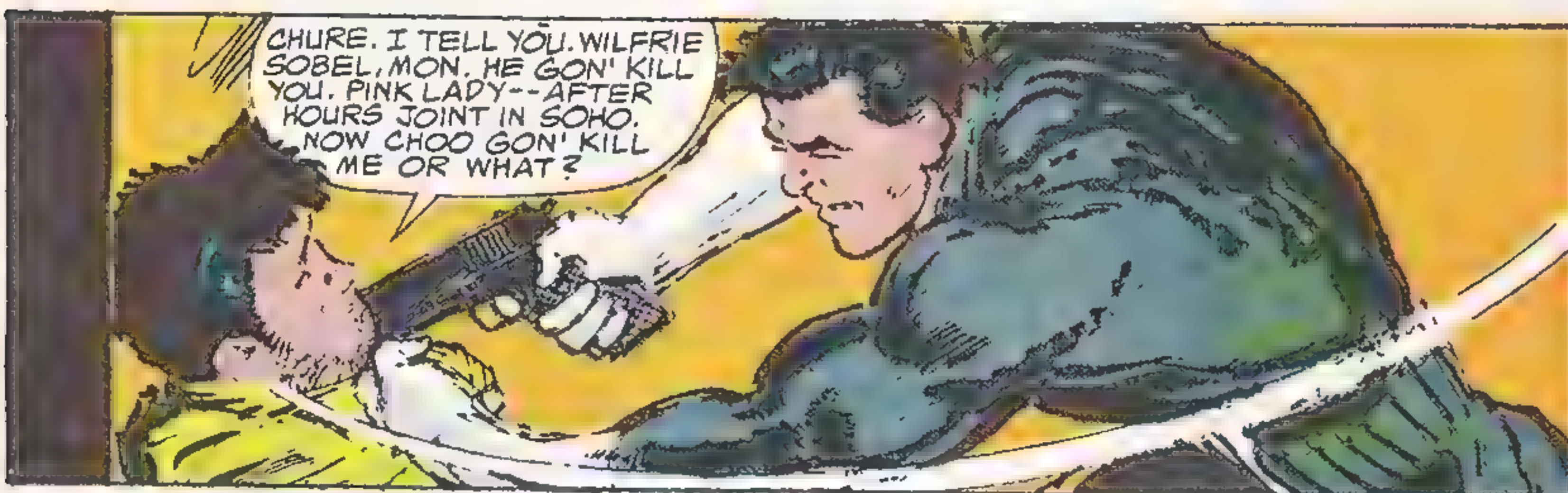
can't get away from it." One of these situations involves (as Mike puts it), a band of "all-American, right-wing bank robbers who rob banks to finance a Fourth Reich. But they're not really Nazis: they're more into being right-wing survivalists." And as everyone knows, survivalists tend to keep plenty of heavy-duty weaponry close at hand.

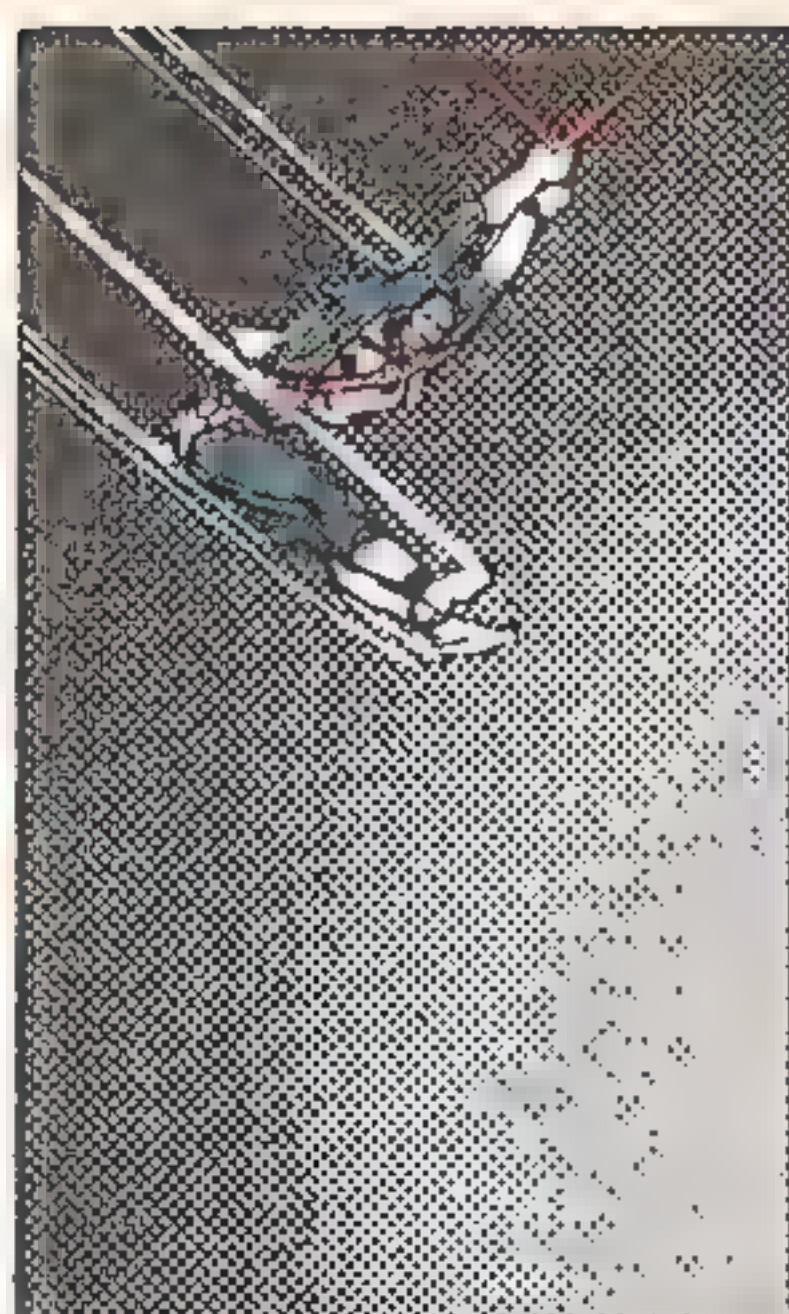
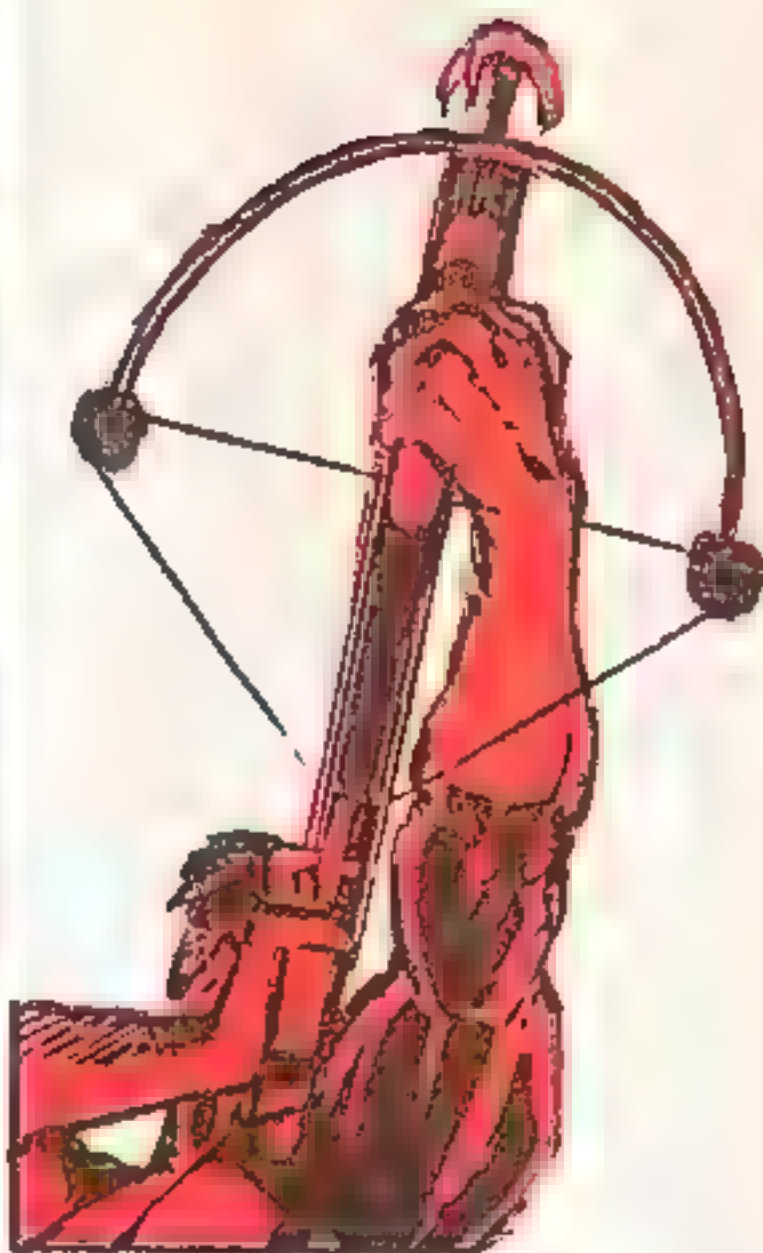
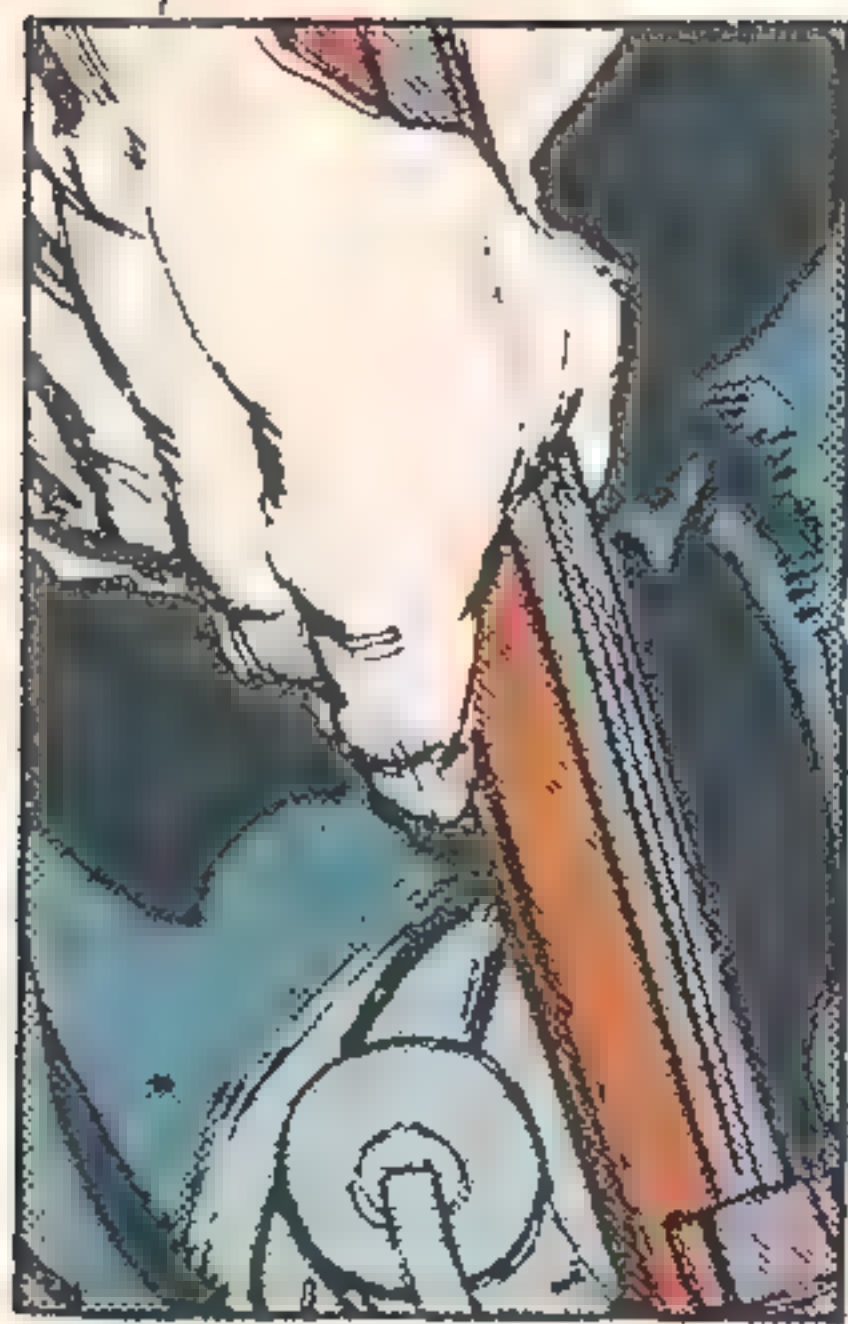
No sooner will the Punisher wrap up his battle in the Midwest than he'll find himself back on the East Coast and up against a very different kind of adversary. "The story is called 'The Rev,' and it has to do with a Jim Jones-type of temple operating out of New York," Mike says. (Jim Jones was the leader of a cult that came to an end when Jones and his followers committed mass suicide by drinking poisoned

Kool-Aid.) "But instead of being into mass suicide like Jim Jones, the leader of this cult, Sam Smith, thinks he has enough weapons to hold off a government attack! He's going to come out with guns blazing!"

Mike is very pleased with the character of Sam Smith. "He's such a good character that I might even allow him to survive!" Mike laughs. "One of the things Jim Jones said was that he was a faith healer, and there is evidence that he did some good. There's evidence that some people can heal without traditional medicine. Sam Smith is a mixed bag: he is evil and megalomaniacal, but on the other hand, he does he does have a real gift for healing."

Two more new characters whom Mike likes a lot are a lot less mega-





lomaniacal than Sam Smith. Their names are **Microchip** and **Microchip Junior**. And although we've never seen them before, they've actually been involved with the Punisher for some time now! "Microchip and Microchip Junior are the father-and-son team responsible for the Punisher's high-tech weaponry," Mike explains. "They built his battlewagon and put together his computer hook-ups."

And of course, there will be occasional appearances by familiar Marvel characters. Plans are already in the works for a cross-over with **DAREDEVIL** in the not-too-distant future. And judging from the Punisher's previous meetings with ol' Horn-Head, that's bound to mean fireworks aplenty!

As you've probably figured out by now, one of the key words to use in

describing **THE PUNISHER** is "Action" with a capital A! But the creative team is trying to portray more than just action in **THE PUNISHER**. For example, Klaus is trying to set a distinctive tone and mood for the series. "I'm trying to develop my storytelling into a more graphics-oriented style," he explains. "I'm trying to combine the book's action with a dark, shadowy mood like I used in **DAREDEVIL**."

Setting the mood for a series is no easy task, but for Klaus, the challenges don't stop there! In general, he's discovered that working with Mike is "interesting and challenging. Mike and I don't think alike about certain things like pacing. But that can be a positive thing. The result will be a combination, a collaboration rather than one person dominating the book. This way, we can take the best of what each

of us has to offer, which is much the way it was when Frank Miller and I were working together. I hope the same will happen in this book."

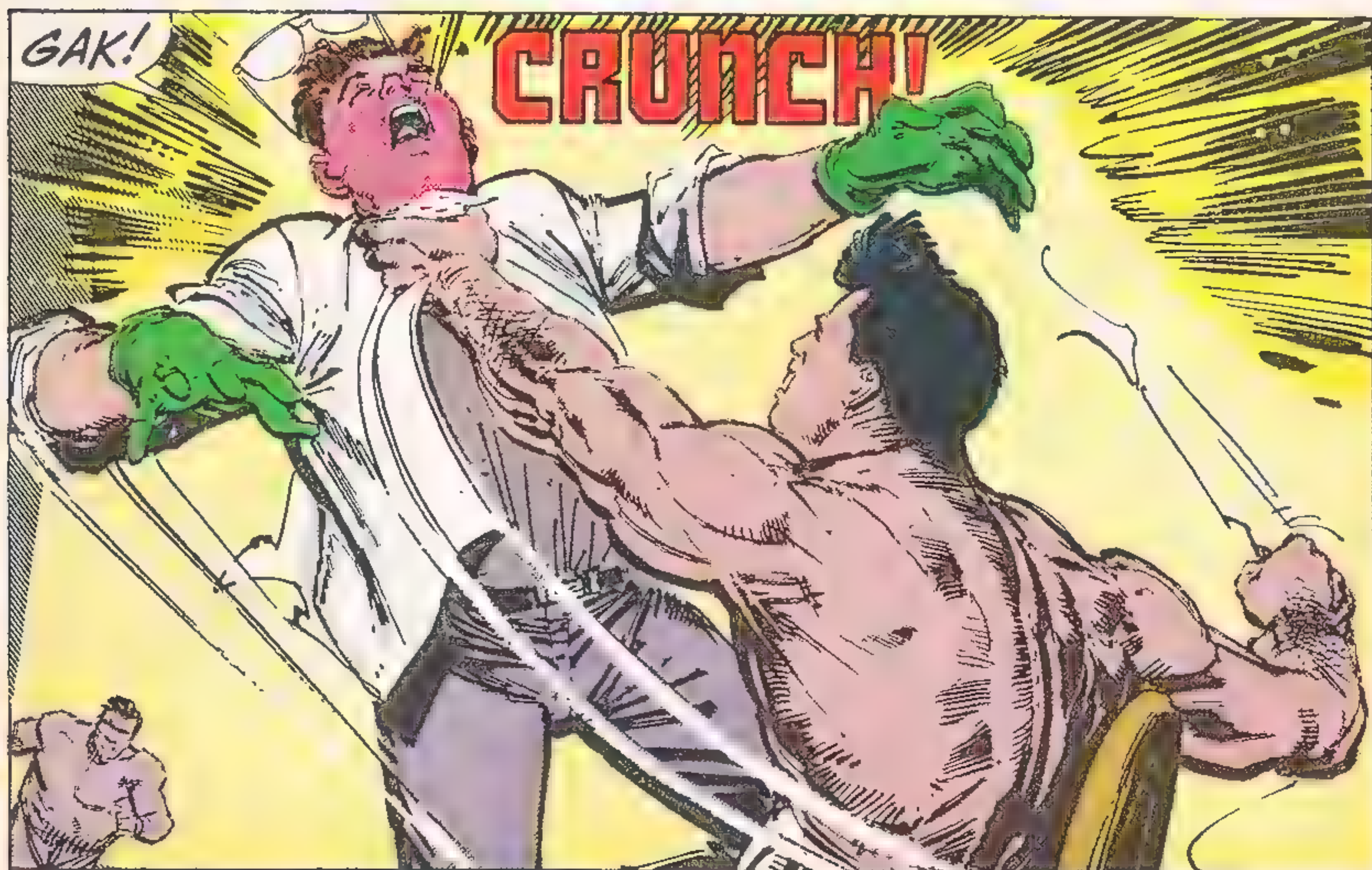
In Mike's opinion, it already has. "Klaus's work is very exciting," Mike says. "He has a casual sort of style which has a lot of spontaneity and real depth."

Both Mike and Klaus are already doing great work on **THE PUNISHER**. And if their past work is any indication, they're just going to get better and better.

So whether you're a Punisher fan, a Mike Baron fan, or a Klaus Janson fan (or like many of us, all three), you're sure to want to run right out and take a look at the first issue of **THE PUNISHER**.

Go ahead, make our day.

—Sholly Fisch



CONAN SAGA™

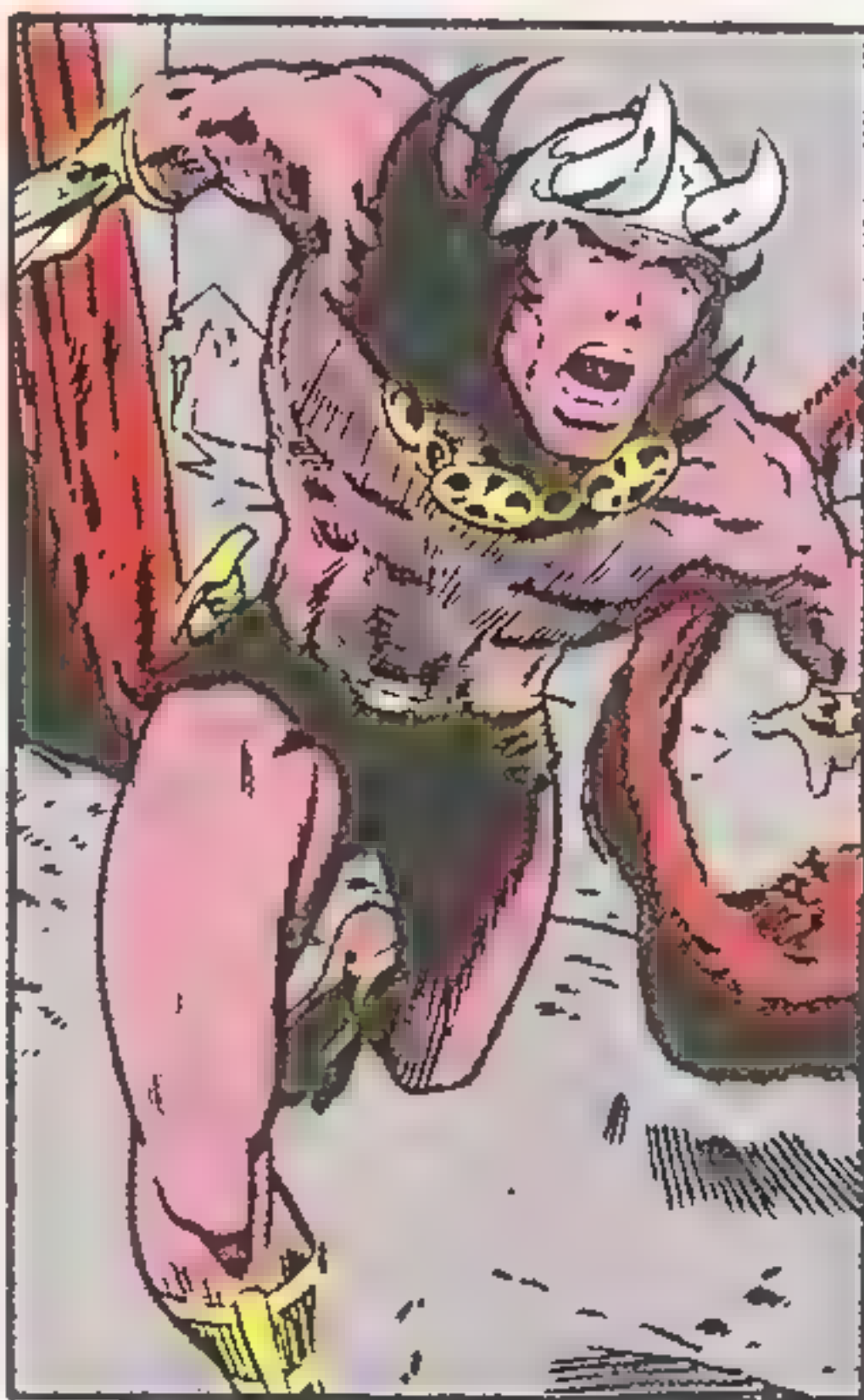
CONAN © 1987 by Conan Properties, Inc.

Barbarian lovers, rejoice! We have big plans in store for your favorite Cimmerian! For those of you unlucky enough to have been born too late and those of you who just didn't realize that comics history was being made, we are representing the early CONAN THE BARBARIAN adventures, starting with the first issue of that title. So exciting and sweeping were those early Roy Thomas and Barry Smith tales that there was no real choice of what to call this new title. It could only be—CONAN SAGA! MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE editor Jim Salicrup was reflecting on the wonderful work done on the early Conan stories, realized that there was a whole new generation of comic book readers who had never had a chance to experience those classic adventures. He suggested to Jim Shooter a way of reprinting them. Jim approved of the idea, and, before long, CONAN SAGA was approved and scheduled.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE decided to have a chat with Roy and find out how Conan became a Marvel comic in the first place. After all, in the early 70s, when Conan made his Marvel debut, super heroes were all the rage with ne'er a barbarian in sight. We wondered what had inspired Roy to even consider taking a chance on a character such as Conan who was so different from all the other Marvel characters.

"In 1969 or so," Roy told us, "Conan and the other sword and sorcery characters were big in paperbacks. I'd never read any and was not a fan. About this time we started getting letters from our fans encouraging us to get involved in various projects. One of these was the Lord of the Rings. Another was Conan."

One could almost say it was fate that brought Conan to Marvel. Originally Marvel was negotiating for the rights to another sword and sorcery character because it was assumed that, since Conan was so popular, obtaining the rights would be impossible. Roy, while browsing through a book store late at night, came across the name of the literary agent for the estate of Robert E. Howard, the creator of Conan. He suggested that at least an inquiry should be made. Martin



Goodman, who was publisher of Marvel Comics at the time, was skeptical of the whole idea of publishing a sword and sorcery character. He thought that it wouldn't sell, but, to appease Roy, he gave the approval for him to write a letter to Glen Lord, the literary agent. Much to everyone's surprise, not only were the rights available, but Lord was delighted with the idea of a Conan comic book. The deal was quickly closed.

Roy originally thought that he would only write an issue or two of the title and then would pass it on to someone else. Once he started writing, however, he became so enchanted with Conan and his world that he stayed on. Indeed, Roy is, outside of Robert E. Howard, probably the person most identified with chronicling the savage career of Conan.

When it came to choosing an artist, the first choice was John Buscema. John, however, was unavailable, so Roy suggested the then relatively new artist, Barry Smith. Little did he know that Barry would quickly be catapulted to super-stardom, largely on the basis of his work on CONAN. Roy and Barry worked incredibly together and this was reflected in their work. The early

issues of CONAN THE BARBARIAN are generally considered to be comic art classics by many fans.

Roy, who currently writes NEW UNIVERSE titles, NIGHTMASK and JUSTICE, and in his career has written virtually every Marvel title, is delighted that his early CONAN work is being reprinted. CONAN has always been a favorite of his, partly because it was different from everything else he was doing and partly because, like a fond midwife, he brought Conan into the world of comics.

CONAN SAGA will be appearing as a black and white comics magazine, similar to the popular SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, a black and white comics magazine which features grittier Conan adventures than the color comic. Each issue will contain two, sometimes three Conan stories and will feature all-new covers by Barry Windsor-Smith (nee Barry Smith). Barry will also personally oversee the production of the series so as to assure the best quality work that can be produced.

Larry Hama, the editor of the Conan titles, is also excited about the project. When asked how he explained the phenomenal popularity of the barbarian, Larry replied, "Conan doesn't question himself. He has no doubt about whether he's right or wrong. He's honest about what he is and people respond to that."

Roy, when asked the same question, responded, "He's the seminal sword and sorcery character. Robert E. Howard was the best writer in the genre. He wrote with such intensity. He really created a world that people could get into."

Roy should know. He's written over 5,000 pages of Conan material for Marvel, not to mention his work on the Conan syndicated newspaper comic strip and the Conan movies. In fact, the only kind of Conan writing he has not done is a novel. "I've been offered the opportunity," he told MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, "but I was always too busy. I'd really like to do one eventually."

Until that day, Roy Thomas and Conan fans alike still have CONAN SAGA.
—Sandy Hausler

DIRECT SALES STORES

This past summer Marvel attended several comic book trade shows designed to improve the ways comic books are sold and distributed. To help these shows achieve even greater attendance in the future, we agreed to publish the store names, addresses, and phone numbers of all the store owners that participated, right here in MARVEL AGE

MAGAZINE. Well, the shows were quite a success and we're sure that means improved ways of serving you better!

We'd like to thank Dave Scroggy and Mike Friedrich for providing the following names and addresses and for organizing their respective trade shows. Keep up the good work, guys!

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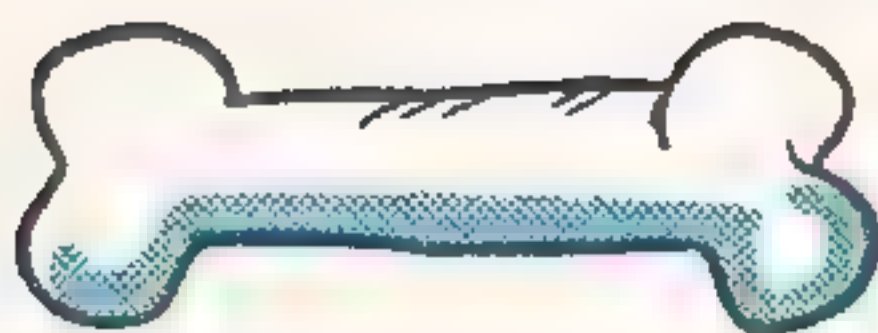
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STAR

SPOTLIGHT



THE FLINTSTONE KIDS



WILMA!



The cry goes out across the cosmos: "Yabba Dabba Doo!" Well, that may be exaggerating things slightly, but Fred Flintstone's famous victory cry will soon be heard throughout the Star Comics line, in a fun new series called **THE FLINTSTONE KIDS**.

Like the new TV show of the same name, this feature will show those loving couples of an animated Stone Age, Fred and Wilma and Barney and Betty, back when they were only chil-

dren. Even their pet Dino will be shown as a puppy! (How exactly does one refer to a baby dinosaur?)

It's a very funny set-up," says Star Comics editor Sid Jacobson. Knowing how much trouble Fred and Barney got into as adults, it's not hard to imagine how crazy their childhood must have been. We'll be meeting some of their Bedrock classmates, such as Dreamchip, a very rich and very attractive young girl who'll have her eyes on Fred, and Rocky, the school bully (there's always one), whom Sid says can be viewed as a spoof on Rambo.

In addition to their fellow students, **THE FLINTSTONE KIDS** will also introduce Fred's extremely rich Uncle Mintstone, whose appearances will often place the characters in amusing predicaments.

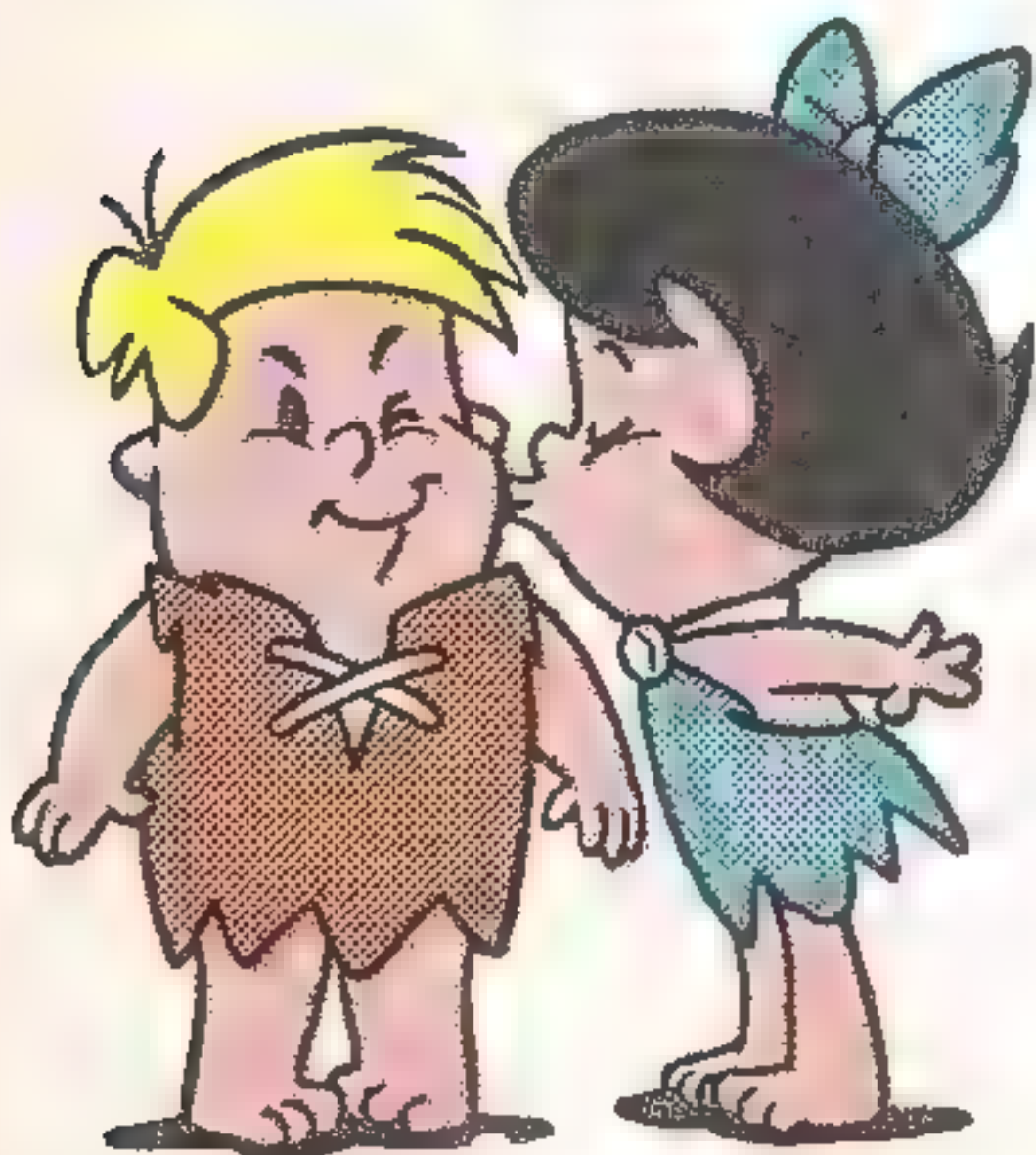
Sid is confident that readers will find this series thoroughly entertaining. The humor that so many people loved in the classic caveman cartoons of the 1960's will be present here. "The devices of the period work well for kids," Sid says, and **THE FLINTSTONE KIDS** should appeal to a new generation of Flintstone fans (and perhaps some original ones, as well).

The bi-monthly series will contain

three or four stories per issue, written by Michael Gallagher (**HEATHCLIFF**, **MADBALLS**) and Dave Manak (**EWOKS**, **DROIDS**), pencilled by Ernie Colon, and inked by Al Milgrom.

The first issue is due out in May, with a story spotlighting a campaign for class president between young Fred and nasty Rocky. Another tale has Fred, Wilma and the others dreaming about what they'll be like as adults. If only they knew . . .

-Ken Hart



THE

MARVEL

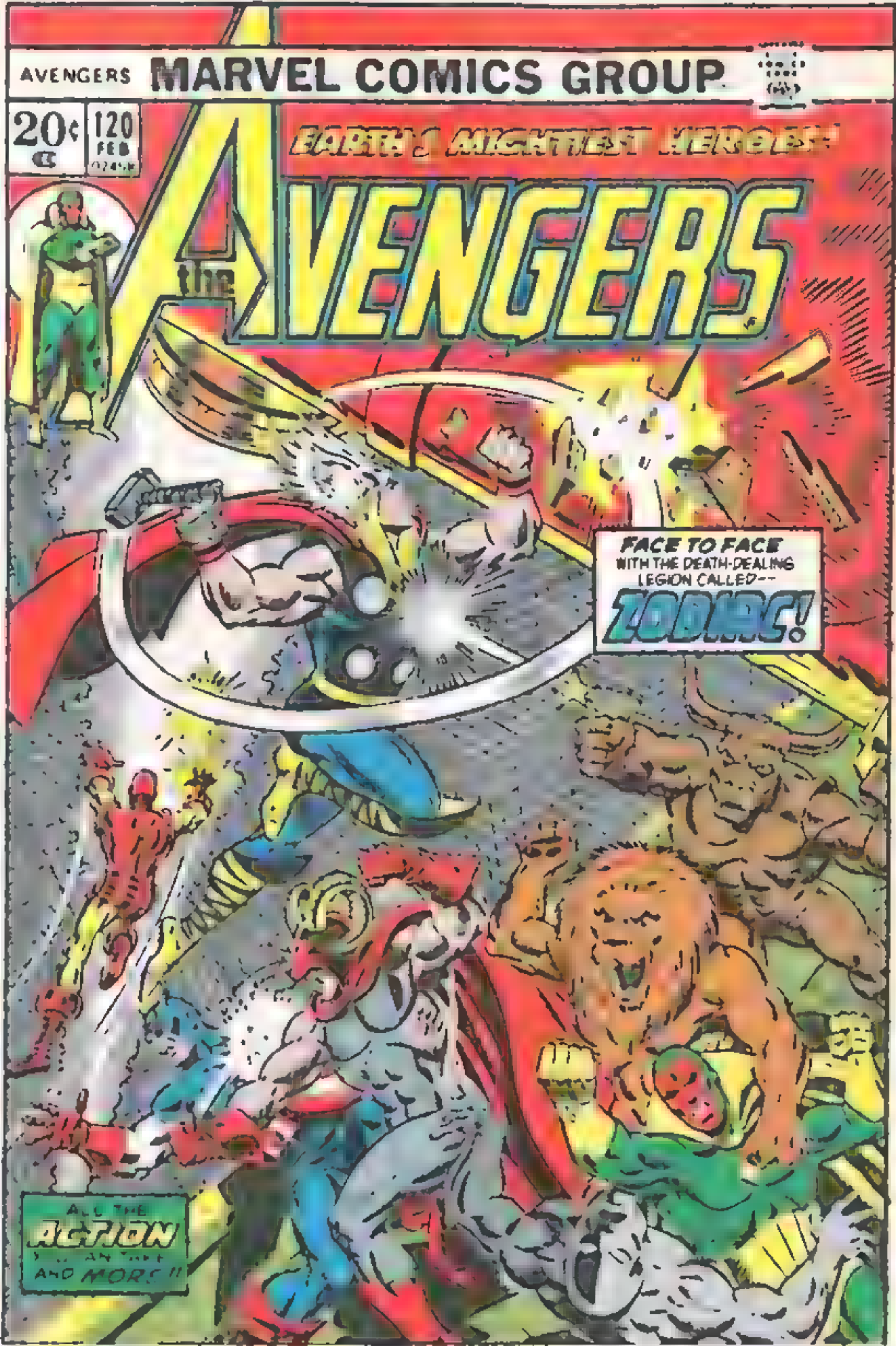
AGE

1974
PT. II

Well, here we are again. All set to dive back into the days of Marvel, 1974? Okay, then let's go!

1974 took some pretty strange turns for CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON, thanks to writers Steve Englehart and Mike Friedrich and artists Sal Buscema, Frank McLaughlin, and Vince Coletta. It all started as Quentin Harderman's Committee to Regain America's Principles ran a smear campaign to turn public opinion against Cap. But it didn't stop there; they soon framed Cap for the murder of his old foe the Tumbler! And they set up a new "super hero" called Moonstone (the predecessor of the female Moonstone who turned up recently in THE AVENGERS) to bring him to "justice." By the time the Falcon returned from Africa where the Black Panther designed the wings which would become Falc's trademark, Cap was on the run and trying to clear his name. After a battle with the Banshee, they joined forces with the original X-Men (now better known as X-Factor), since Harderman's Committee turned out to be a front for the malevolent Secret Empire! The Secret Empire had been kidnapping mutants to use their energy in a plot to take over the United States. Cap broke up the plot and cleared his name, but the search for the Secret Empire's leader led to the White House itself! Cap became so disillusioned with his country that he actually gave up being Captain America! But battles with Lucifer (as Steve Rogers) and a trick of Hawkeye's (who'd disguised himself as "the Golden Archer") convinced Steve that he could be a hero without being Captain America. And so he became a new hero, a man without a country—Nomad!

While Cap was dealing with his unique personal problems, his AVENGERS teammates were battling menaces in settings ranging from outer space to Vietnam. As the year opened, the Avengers were locked in a life-and-death struggle with the criminal organization Zodiac. The Avengers wound up stranded in space with a bunch of renegade Zodiac members, but were saved by another Zodiac member, Libra. The Avengers were shocked by Libra's reason for helping them—he was Mantis' father! Next, it was back to space to help in the wrap-up of the Thanos War (more



on that later) and then off to New York to battle Klaw and Solarr. Even when they tried to take time off, the Avengers found themselves faced with fearsome menaces. When they went to the Inhumans' Hidden Land to attend Quicksilver's and Crystal's wedding, an event we'll be covering completely next issue, they ended up helping the Fantastic Four and the Inhumans fight Ultron. And when they traveled to Vietnam to investigate Mantis' mysterious past, they found themselves facing the

combined might of the Crimson Dynamo, the Titanium Man, the Radioactive Man, and the Slasher! Whew!

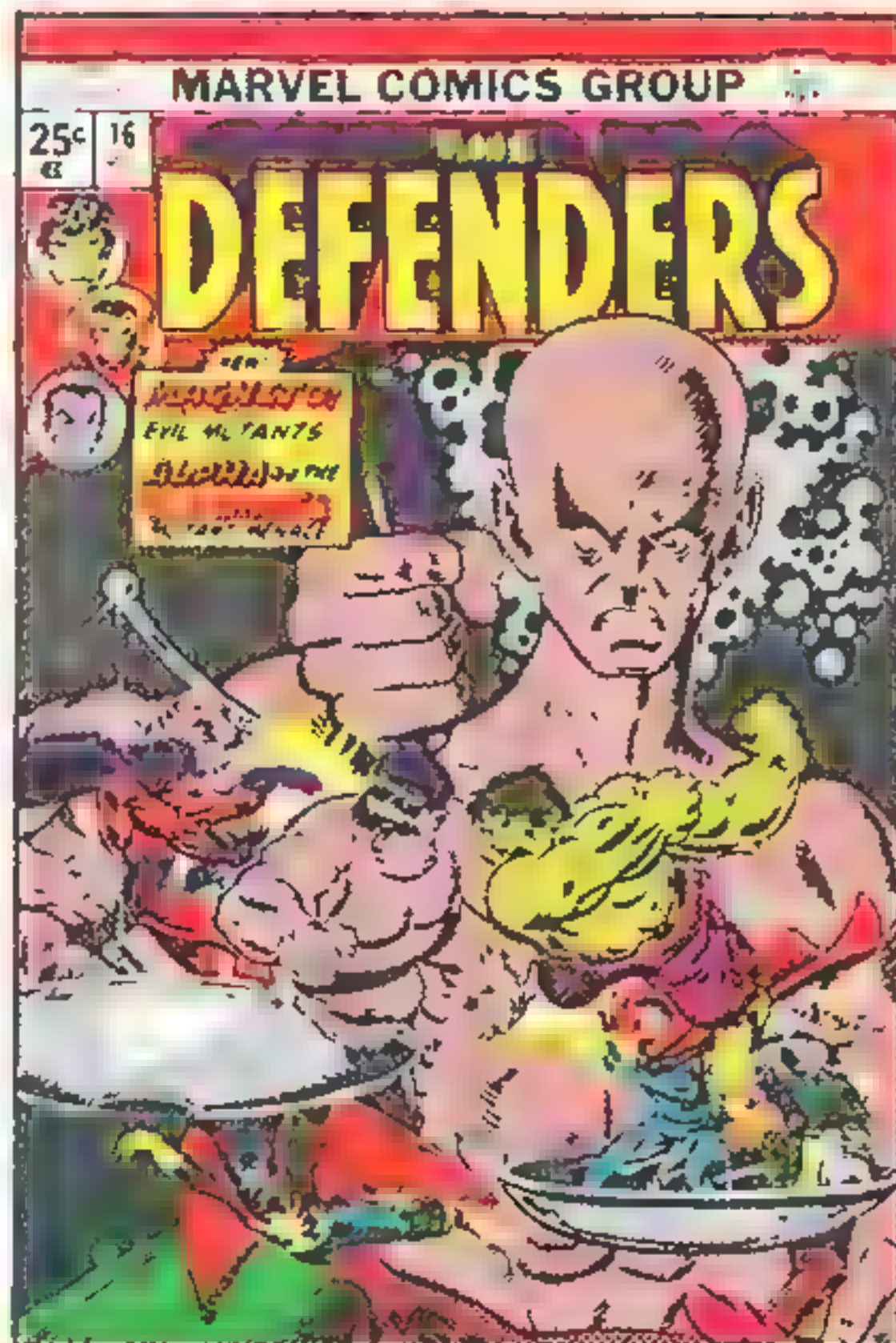
As though there weren't enough super-villain teams already, DAREDEVIL had his hands full with one conspiracy after another. No sooner had he (along with the Black Widow, Moondragon, and Captain Mar-Vell) ended the threat of Kevin Broderick and his pawns Terrex, Ramrod, and Angar, than he found himself up

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

We covered a batch of my all-time favorite issues this time around. If you want to get copies of your own, here's what you can expect to pay at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source is **Robert Overstreet's The Comic Book Price Guide #16**. But remember: this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and they should be even lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ THE AVENGERS			
119	.50	1.50	3.00
120 Jim Starlin cover	.60	1.80	3.60
121-130	.50	1.50	3.00
131	.40	1.25	2.50
■ CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON			
169-171		.50	1.00
172-175 X-Men appear	.70	2.00	4.00
176-180		.50	1.00
■ CAPTAIN MARVEL			
30-34 Jim Starlin art	.75	2.25	4.50
35		.50	1.00
■ DAREDEVIL			
107 Jim Starlin cover	.25	.75	1.50
108-113		.50	1.00
114 1st. app. Death Stalker	.25	.75	1.50
115-116		.50	1.00
■ THE DEFENDERS			
11-16	.25	.80	1.60
■ DOCTOR STRANGE			
1 Frank Brunner art	1.00	3.00	6.00
2 Frank Brunner art	.35	1.00	2.00
3 Ditko reprint/2 pgs. Brunner	.35	1.00	2.00
4-5 Frank Brunner art	.35	1.00	2.00

against a group called **Black Spectre**. With the aid of the Widow and Shanna the She-Devil, DD fought his way past villains like the **Silver Samurai** to stop the leaders of **Black Spectre**: the ape-faced mutant **Mandrill** and **Nekra**, Mistress of Hate. But no sooner was **Black Spectre** out of the way than DD had to fight his way past the like of the



Gladiator and the Man-Thing to prevent the diabolical Death-Stalker from creating an army of Man-Things ("Men-Things?")! Then it was off to San Francisco to visit the Black Widow, but despite all of his triumphs, DD finished the year as the prisoner of an organization headed by his old enemy the Owl.

And speaking of super-villain groups, THE DEFENDERS fought a few themselves in 1974. Doctor Strange was entertaining the Hulk and the Valkyrie in his Sanctum Sanctorum when they were interrupted by the criminal Nighthawk. Nighthawk had come to ask for help; it seemed that his old teammates in the Squadron Sinister had sold the Earth to the alien Nebulon—and Nebulon wanted it underwater! The Defenders called in the Sub-Mariner and headed for the North Pole, where (along with Nighthawk) they defeated Nebulon and the Squadron before the villains could melt the polar ice cap. Nighthawk joined the Defenders as the Sub-Mariner left, but his initiation was far from easy! Magneto had once more assembled the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants (which now consisted of Unus, the Blob, Mastermind, and Lorelei) to help him create Alpha the Ultimate Mutant! Since Alpha's awesome powers could accomplish anything, things looked pretty dark. But when Alpha's mind developed as much as his powers, he realized that Magneto was evil and turned the Evil Mutants back into babies, hoping that this would give them the chance to start life over.

Scripter Steve Englehart and artists Frank Brunner and Dick Giordano saw to it that DOCTOR STRANGE kept busy in the pages of his own, brand-new series as well. The team turned out daring stories which quickly became comic classics, starting off the series with the murder of Doctor Strange! Doc was fatally stabbed by a self-appointed demon-slayer named Silver Dagger. In a last ditch effort to save himself, Doc used the Orb of Agamotto, but found himself pulled into a world of madness inside the Orb. There he met a talking caterpillar and insane replicas of his Defenders teammates before coming face-to-face with the personification of Death! The ensuing battle taught Doc that no one can fight Death, and when he allowed Death to take him, he discovered that his trip through the Orb had been the first of many trials on his road to becoming Sorcerer Supreme. He was reborn, but when he allowed Silver Dagger to share some of the knowledge he had gained, the villain proved too weak to handle the knowledge and fled to the unreal world inside the Orb.



More classic tales were being told in the pages of CAPTAIN MARVEL, courtesy of writer/artist Jim Starlin (aided and abetted by inker Al Milgrom and sometimes-participants Dan Green, Mike Friedrich, and Steve Englehart). As 1974 opened, Mar-Vell was smack in the middle of an all-out war against the forces of Thanos. (See? Told you there'd be more on the Thanos War later.) Having been endowed with cosmic awareness by the alien Eon, Mar-Vell beat Thanos' pawn, the Controller. But in the meantime, Thanos obtained the all-powerful Cosmic Cube! And even as Mar-Vell and the Destroyer enlisted the aid of Moondragon and the Avengers, Thanos prepared to give the Earth to his lover—Death! Thanos used the Cube to defeat all of his enemies and make himself a god. But after an epic battle, Mar-Vell destroyed

the Cube, putting an end to the menace of Thanos (at least for the moment). Ironically, while Mar-Vell survived the battle with Thanos, his next (and much less powerful) foe would indirectly cause his death. As he fought Nitro (who could make his own body explode), Mar-Vell was exposed to an experimental nerve gas. Although Mar-Vell didn't know it at the time, his exposure to the gas gave him cancer, cancer which would eventually cost him his life.

Hmm. . . Looks like we're about out of space again. So come back next time when we look at a new name for Luke Cage, Hero for Hire, and the debut of a brand-new super hero.

Which super hero, you ask?

Does the sound effect "Snikt!" mean anything to you?

—Sholly Fisch

MOST OF MARVEL'S MONTHLY MAIL

The alliterative title of this month's letter column comes to us from Kurt Schatz and Brent Boyle of beautiful Markham, Ontario, Canada. Hey, thanks, guys! You have our eternal gratitude! And if any of you want our eternal gratitude (and your name in print in this space), just send us your suggestion for a name for this column! If we use it, we'll give you all the blame—er, credit!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

In the letters column of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #43, you said that THE PUNISHER Limited Series had no issue #s 4 or 5 and requested anyone having those issues to destroy them due to their nonexistence. Well, I have both issues of that fabulous series and would hate to destroy them. Do you have any suggestions?

Jeff McMath
78 Magnolia Dr.
Selden, NY

Gee, Jeff, are you sure you have those issues? After all, they don't exist.

Say, remember the FANTASTIC FOUR and AVENGERS ANNUALS in which the Skrulls lost their shape-changing power? They got stuck in all sorts of shapes! You don't suppose . . . Nah.

Dear Marvel Folk,

I am a long-time follower of Marvel. The first Marvel Comic I ever read was FANTASTIC FOUR #13 (it came in a plastic bag sans cover with several other comics—one of my youthful vacations vices). After high school I "outgrew" comics—or got tired of hearing my mother tell me I *should* outgrow them—and got busy with other things. Then about three years ago I decided being grown up was overrated and resumed my comic habit. Now I read more than fifty comics a month, and Marvel is still my favorite.

Thanks for many years of entertainment and congratulations on your 25th anniversary. I may have missed part of the last twenty-five years, but I'll be around for the next quarter century!

Nancy McGregor
(Mrs. Dennis McGregor)
1869 16 St. SW
Akron, OH 44314

And we'll be right there beside you, Nancy! Nice to have you back.

You know, a big part of being grown up is making your own decisions. And these days, it looks like more and more grown ups are deciding that the comics they loved as kids are every bit as fun and exciting now! Take the next two letters for example:

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I'm presently stationed with the U.S. Air Force in England with orders to Texas in the near future. I've spent a little over three years in this country, and there's not much for a single 26-year-old to do on this base. I was fortunate enough to have had a bookstore here that stocked a good selection of Marvel Comics. I was not an avid comics fan when I arrived here, and it was a terrible loss on my part! Your stories have a certain amount of realism that makes you feel very much involved in them. It's great to see some action, but I also like the way you individualize your characters and build around their hopes, dreams, sorrows, etc. It's too bad some people still regard comics as a waste of time and think you could never learn anything by reading them.

I read all the Marvel Comics I can get. Sure, it tightens the wallet now and then, but it's worth it. And it's surprising how many of my fellow workers enjoy Marvel, too. We get into some pretty good discussions at times. I especially enjoy THE UNCANNY X-MEN. The way you blend the spreading mutant hysteria into their stories is brilliant. Kinda makes you think back 40 years when things like that were actually happening, but not to mutants. Just goes to show you what an imperfect world we live in. Too bad we all couldn't do away with prejudice and the like.

So I just wanted to drop you a line and say thank you for making my stay in England that much more bearable. Keep it up!

SrA Wayne "FUZ" Kraft
Box 479
APO New York, NY 09125

Dear Marvel of the Ages,

I'm a disc jockey at a station here in Maine and because I work from 12 Midnight to 6 AM, besides playing the hits, I don't have much else to do, so I started my old comic collections up again. At first I started with THE X-MEN, then I collected all the Annuals, then ELFQUEST. Then I really started

to roll. I now collect all the comics in the New Universe, X-FACTOR, G.I. JOE, CLASSIC X-MEN, any and all Limited Series, and others to take up time. In fact, I sometimes give summaries of the stories over the air—especially the Mutant Massacre. My friends bought me a subscription to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE just to keep me busy!! I just wanted to wish Marvel a happy 25th!

Well, until Wolvie gets a manicure, Make Mine Marvel!

Steven Biron
Overnight Announcer
WCDQ-FM 92
Sanford, Maine

We're glad to have you with us, Wayne and Steven! Thanks for discovering Marvel, and thanks even more for helping to spread the word about us! At this rate, we should take over the world any day now!

And by the way, we agree with Steven's friends: A subscription to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE makes a great gift! It matches any wardrobe! So if you'd like a subscription to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE for yourself or a friend, just send a \$6.00 check or money order to Marvel Comics Subscription Department, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. Tell 'em Irving Forbush sent ya!

Dear Marvel Agers,

I think MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is very informative. I buy the magazine every month. Now for a few questions:

I read the SPIDER-MAN newspaper strip every day. How come it never has any major heroes or villains? Also, why doesn't Spidey have his black costume?

Wolverine is my favorite character in the Marvel Universe. Has his origin ever appeared in a comic?

Shawn Rinehart
4106 Barton Lane
Ft. Wayne, IN 46815

Well, Shawn, while Wolverine's full origin has never been revealed, bits of it have turned up in THE X-MEN, ALPHA FLIGHT, and Limited Series such as KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE. Of course, you can learn a lot about Wolvie's past by checking his entry in THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE Deluxe Edition.

As for your SPIDER-MAN question, Stan (the Man) Lee has been begging us for letters with inquiries such as yours, Shawn, so we're passing it on to him. Makes our job easier! And let this be a reminder to the rest of you that if you've got a question you'd like Stan to answer, drop him a line care of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. He'd love to hear from you! And speaking of which . . .

Our LETTER OF THE MONTH this month is from a man who needs no introduction to the ranks of Marvel-dom. He found himself becoming the West Coast's answer to the NEW YORK TIMES's English expert William Safire when . . . Well, we'll let him explain . . .

Dear Marvel,

Regarding Chris Smith's letter in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #47 . . .

Chris was wondering what "Excelsior," the word with which I close most of my momentous monographs, really means. He said that the dictionary listed "excelsior" as "packaging material made out of wood shavings, etc." And he's right!

But—

He obviously didn't refer to an *unabridged* dictionary. Had he looked up "Excelsior" in WEBSTER'S DELUXE UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY, Second Edition, for example, he would

have seen that it also means "More lofty, higher, always upward. Used as a trademark (and get this!) as a *motto*, as on the seal of the State of New York!"

Basically, through common usage (mostly by me!), "Excelsior" has come to mean "Onward and Upward!"

So now you, and all of Marvel-dom Assembled, finally know the answer to the awesome secret which has eluded the casual reader for lo, these many years! I'm happy to have been able to shed some light on this vertible black hole of lexicology for the benefit of all Trust Believers!

Keep the faith!

Stan Lee

P.S. Wouldja believe? I almost forgot—EXCELSIOR!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Is Justice a mutant? If not, then what is he? I would really like to know!!

Brian Stuewe
3313 Downtain
Wichita, KS 67217

No, Brian, Justice isn't a mutant. He's an alien—a Justice-Warrior from another dimension.

Now, JUSTICE creator Archie Goodwin—he's a mutant.

Dear Marvelites,

In this recent barrage of new titles

and new universes, I think there may be the possibility of neglect for some of the non-New Universe titles that have appeared recently, specifically G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS and STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI. I was extremely impressed by both series in their respective first issues. Being an avid Latinist, I was immediately drawn to MORITURI by its title alone. My hat is off to Peter B. Gillis and Brent Anderson, the creators of this wonderful and tragic series. I could not put down the first issue.

G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS is equally good. I personally like MISSIONS better than the main G.I. JOE title. The art is excellent and the story simply untouchable. The story was one of those kinds where you can't completely figure it out until the end. Too bad it's only a bimonthly series, though.

By the way, I liked what you did with the covers for the November issues, especially the covers of WEST COAST AVENGERS, IRON MAN, and THE X-MEN.

That's all for now. Happy birthday! Pax vobiscum!

Robert Talbot
Rt. 2 Box 294
White Bluff, TN 37187

And an "E Pluribus Unum" to you, Robert! And we'll let you in on a secret—none other than MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE editor Jim Salicrup came up with the concept of featuring all those portraits on the Anniversary covers, and it was John Romita, Sr. who designed the decorative border that framed those very portraits.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

My brother was given a CLOAK AND DAGGER comic by his friend, and one day I decided to read it. Boy, was I amazed! I MARVELLED at the artwork, I was thrilled by the plot, and I was astounded by the elements of human emotion, tragedy, and the truth and reality about the drug world that it presented.

I decided to collect the whole set. I am now awaiting C & D #11. CLOAK AND DAGGER was one of the factors which pushed me to buy other Marvel comics, and I have now gotten three of my friends hooked on CLOAK AND DAGGER! My deepest thanks to the people who make CLOAK AND DAGGER what it is—truly excellent!

In regards to a letter response to Mr. Haynes you printed in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #46, I give STRANGE TALES my strongest vote of confidence.

Chris Baratta
1123 Royal York Rd., #313
London, Ontario
CANADA

TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Jean Grey and Ororo, heartthrobs of mutant-lovers everywhere.

2. Randy O'Brien, aka Antibody.

3. Tower premiered in X-FACTOR #2 (now, was I the only one who first saw Tower and wondered for a moment if Blake Tower had gained superpowers and gone bad?)

4. STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI, whose members must all prove themselves by saying the team's name five times fast.

5. Tom Thumb succumbed to cancer in SQUADRON SUPREME #9.

6. The Blank a guy who often needed filling in?

7. Iceman, who met more than his share of strange villains during his four-issue run.

8. Ika — have you forgotten so soon?

9. Wolverine killed Rachel Van Helsing, to prevent her from becoming a vampire after her death at the hands of Dracula.

10. Imrryr, favorite holiday spot of many a Melnibonean.

11. Dominic Fortune, swashbuckler of the 1930s!

12. H.G. Wells' classic, and Sue Richards' favorite book, THE INVISIBLE MAN.

13. Satana premiered in a four-page teaser, demonstrating her rather unusual romantic talents!

14. THE HAUNT OF HORROR #2 (bonus points if you remembered that this was itself the *second* series called THE HAUNT OF HORROR, the first being a digest-sized prose magazine?)

15. Rhodan, rat-faced commander of the Hounds of Helios!

16. Janice Cord, one of the last great Mad Scientists' Daughters.

17. Triton guest-starred with Subby in both issues #2 and #3!

18. The Vanisher, who seemed to vanish himself after that first appearance, not to reappear for many a moon!

19. The Terrible Tinkerer (though these days, he's decided he's not so bad, and simply is known as the Tinkerer!)

20. Ben Grimm became the Thing, going on a rampage which brought out the elastic powers of Reed Richards to stop him. Sue was first, Johnny was last, but after Sue was Ben.



Thanks for the kind words, Chris. As everyone knows by now, Cloak and Dagger can now be found every month in **STRANGE TALES** right alongside Doctor Strange! So what do you think of the new format? It's been a while since we tried a split book like **STRANGE TALES**, and we really want to hear what everybody thinks of it. After all, you're the people we're trying to please!

Dear Marvelites,

Remember **MARVEL COMICS** #1? I don't, but I have found out that among your introductory heroes, a certain Ka-Zar made an appearance. He was also in three "pulp" before that, and has since made appearances in **ASTONISHING TALES**, **SAVAGE TALES**, and twice in a self-named title. I believe he is an important part of Marvel history but why has he been abandoned? In his last episode, it was stressed that he'd be back soon, but two and a half years later, there's no sign. Why? Are there any plans for his return? After all, you can only re-read the same issues over a certain number of times. Also, in the 1976 series, was the plot line of issue 20 ever resolved? I hope you can answer this letter seriously, unlike the previous letters that have been printed concerning Ka-Zar.

Mike the Savage
Montreal, Canada

Okay, "Mike the Savage," if you want a *serious* answer —

No, there aren't any firm plans for

a new **KA-ZAR** series right now. But even so, it seems you just can't keep a good Jungle Lord down! We hope you caught Ka-Zar's guest appearance in **IRON MAN** not too long ago. And considering that Ka-Zar is one of **MARVEL SAGA** Editor Danny Fingeroth's favorite characters, well, we wouldn't be too surprised to see Zabú's pal turning up again in the near future.

To answer your questions about Ka-Zar's 1976 series, no, the final plot line never was resolved. But we'd be willing to bet that Ka-Zar managed to get away from the space ship that was shooting at him at the end of #20. (There's probably an untold story in there someplace.)

Dear **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**,

In issue #46, you mentioned in this letter column a **LONGSHOT** Graphic Novel being drawn by Arthur Adams. I was wondering if you have any more information on it? Art is my idol, and I want to be prepared when it comes out. In my opinion, Art Adams is the greatest artist ever to grace the pages of a comic book. I also agree with **Dennis Heaton**. Art Adams should get his own regular series and not be stuck doing covers and annuals.

Colin Odell
10902 151st St. E.
Pugallup, WA 98374

We agree with your opinion of Mr. Adams' talent one hundred percent, Colin! Like you, we'd love to see him do a regular series just as

soon as his busy schedule allows it. But in the meantime, Art is hard at work on the **LONGSHOT** Graphic Novel, which will indeed appear in the Summer of 1987. Scripting chores on the Graphic Novel are being handled by **LONGSHOT** creator Ann Nocenti. And editing the Graphic Novel is the guy Ann usually edits on **THE X-MEN** and **THE NEW MUTANTS**—none other than Chris Claremont!

Who says this isn't the **Mighty Age of Rampant Role Reversal**?

Dear Marvel Agents,

I am puzzled by a few events that have occurred in the pages of Marvel Comics lately, and would be very happy if you would try to unravel these mysteries for me.

In **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION**, it says that Sabretooth has the normal strength of a man his age who engages in intensive exercise, but in **X-MEN** #213 he catches a steel barbell with one hand and crushes it. In this really possible for someone with less than superhuman strength?

In **X-MEN ANNUAL** #10, Longshot was supposed to have joined the X-Men. If said Annual happened before the "Mutant Massacre," where was Longshot during said massacre? In addition to these questions, I would like to congratulate the Marvel Bullpen for twenty-five years of greatness? So until Wolverine and Sabretooth kiss and make up . . . **MAKE MINE MARVEL**?

Anson McCarthy
2615 Buchanan
Odessa, TX 79763

Oops, looks like you caught us there, Anson? Sabretooth would have to do quite a few push-ups before he could crush a barbell! **MARVEL UNIVERSE** Editor Mark Gruenwald assures up that Sabretooth's entry will be adjusted accordingly in the next edition.

And that about wraps it up for this month's letters. Join us again next month for more questions, comments, debates, and letter column titles!

But before we sign off, here's one last letter that we think speaks for itself!

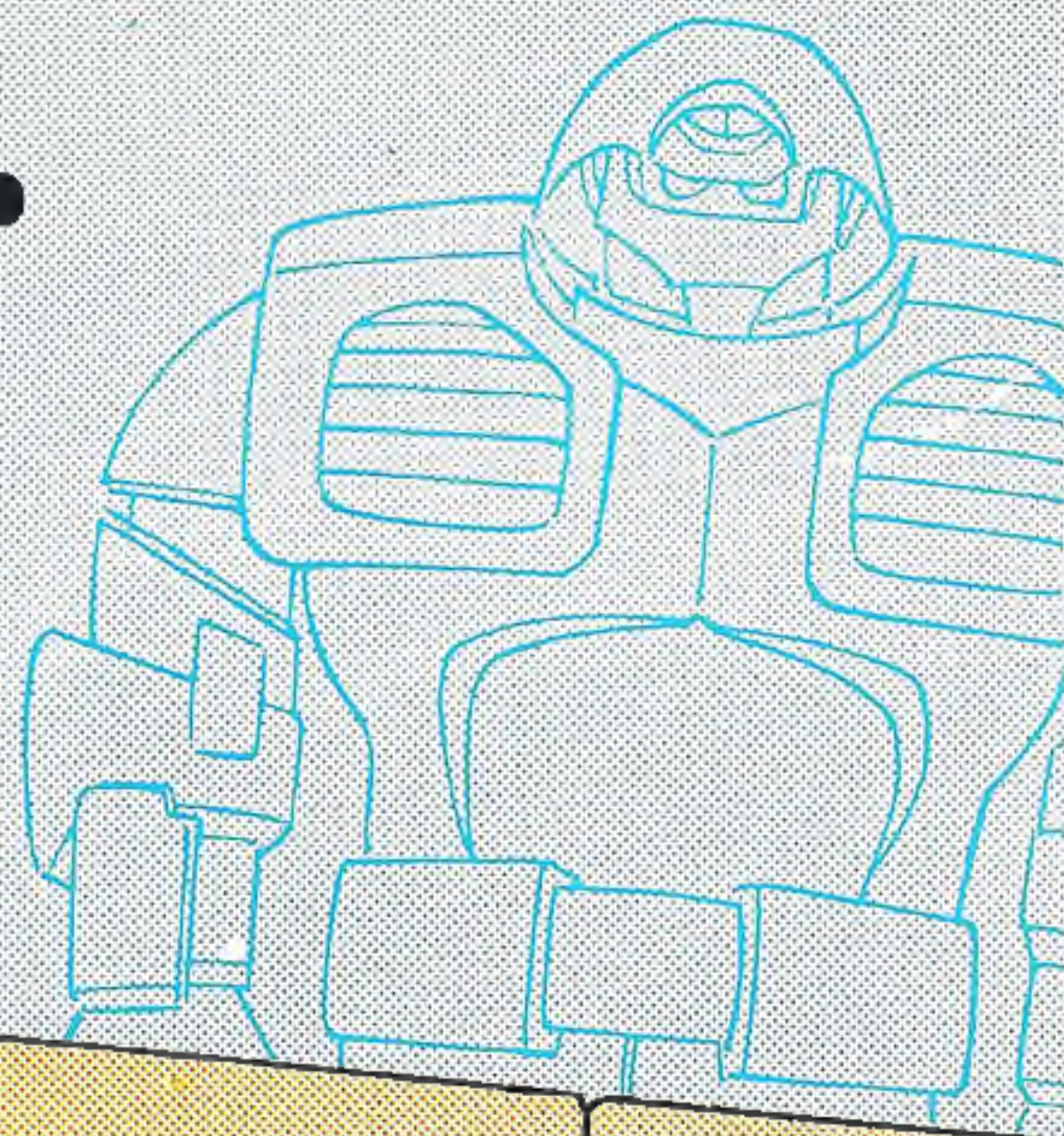
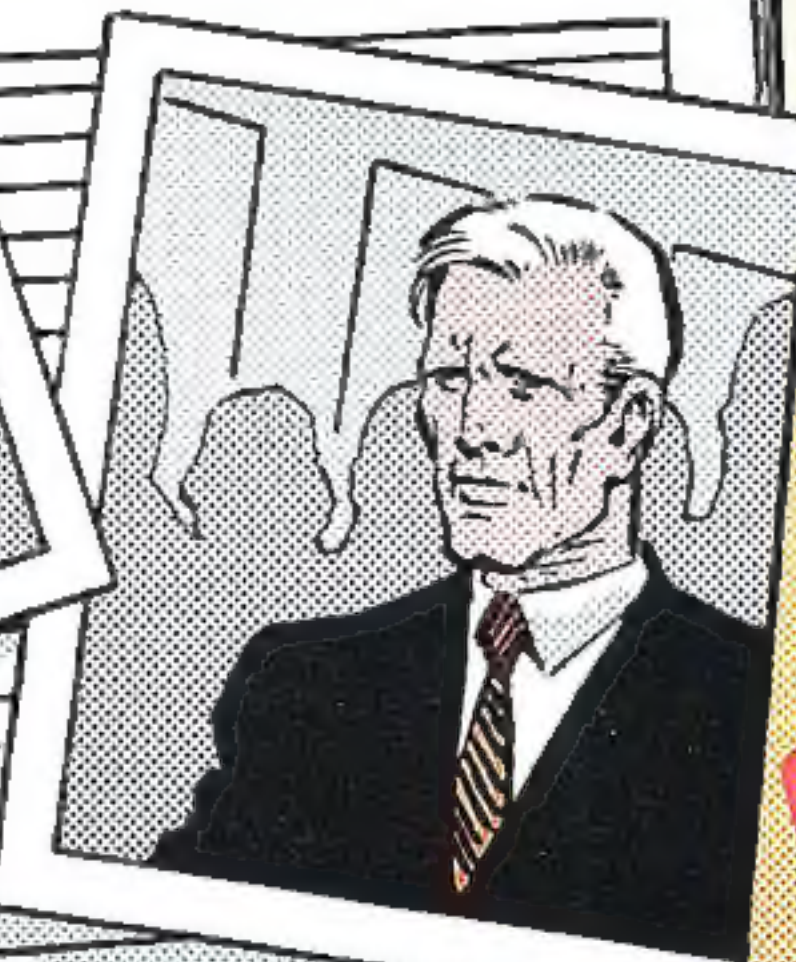
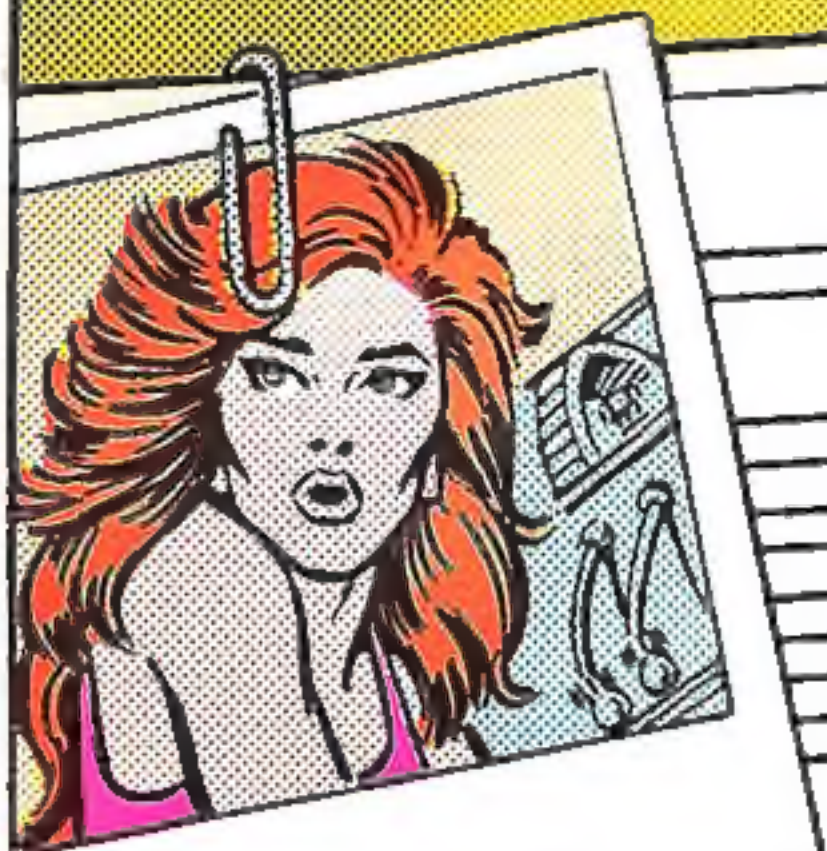
Dear **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**,

Please print this letter. "H." Thank you.

Tom Skorick
Vladimira Rolovica 95
11132 Beograd
Yugoslavia

To which we can only add: 'Nuff said!

There's a new name for
DANGER.



**CODENAME
SPITFIRE™**

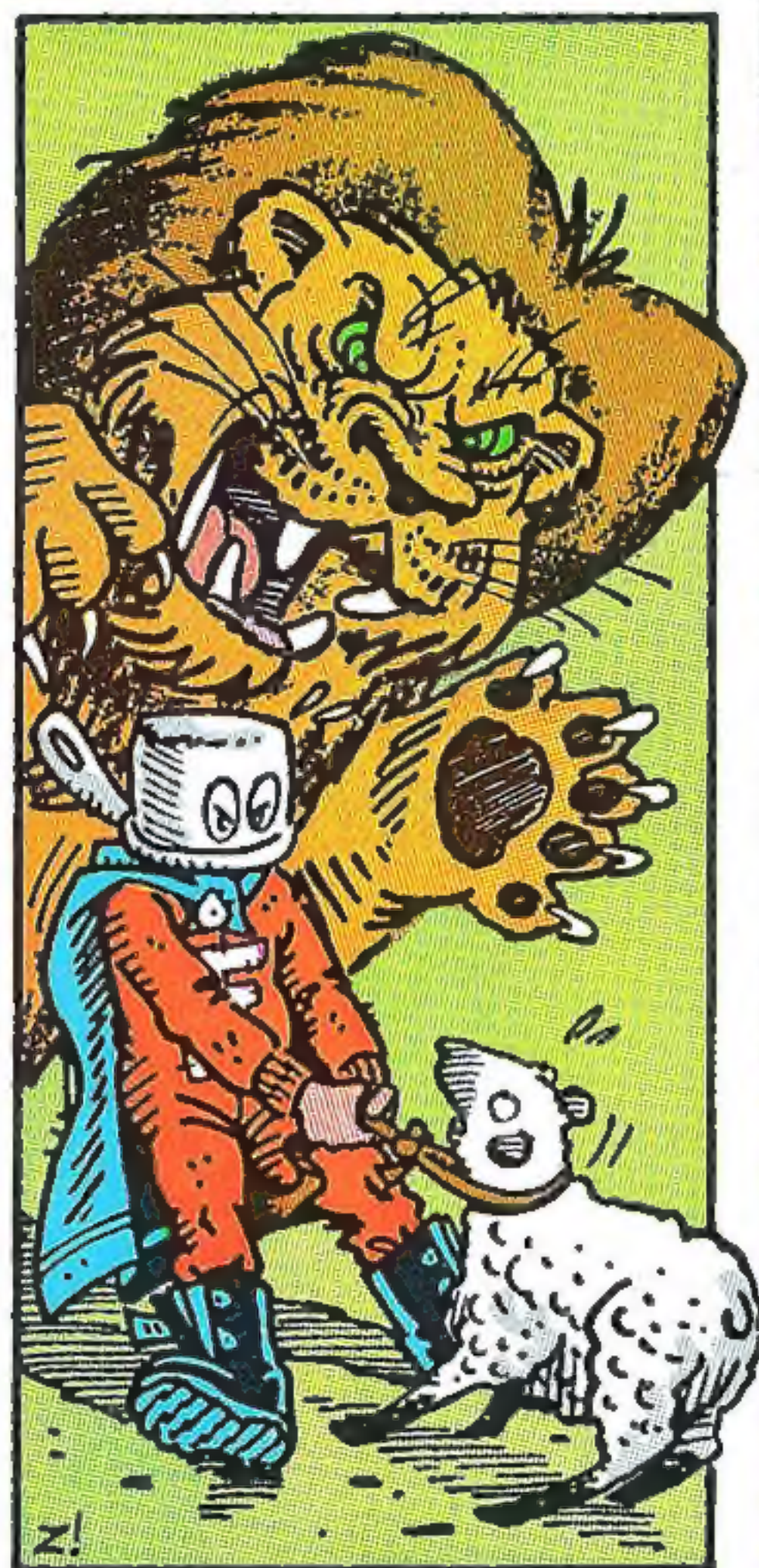
NEW UNIVERSE™

MONTHLY FROM MARVEL®

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THE 1987 MARVEL AGE[®] CALENDAR

the windy
MARCH



MIKE CARLIN—WRITER

RON ZALME—ARTIST

PAUL BECTON—COLORIST



DAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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		5	HULKY BIRTHDAY, AL MILGROM!	AND ALAN WEISS!
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10 SIGH!	11	HAPPY BIRTHDAY, WEST-COAST LIASON, CAROL JAZWYNSKI!	13 I JUST LOVE FRIDAY THE 13TH!	14 BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH TOMORROW!
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	YESTERDAY WAS VERONICA CARLIN'S BIRTHDAY!	19 WHAT TH' HECK IS AN "IDE" ANYWAYS?	HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DYNAMIC DIANA ALBERS!	21
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	25	HAWKEYE...	27	28 THUNK!
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31	MARCH ALONG, MARCH ALONG, MARCH ALONG...			
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